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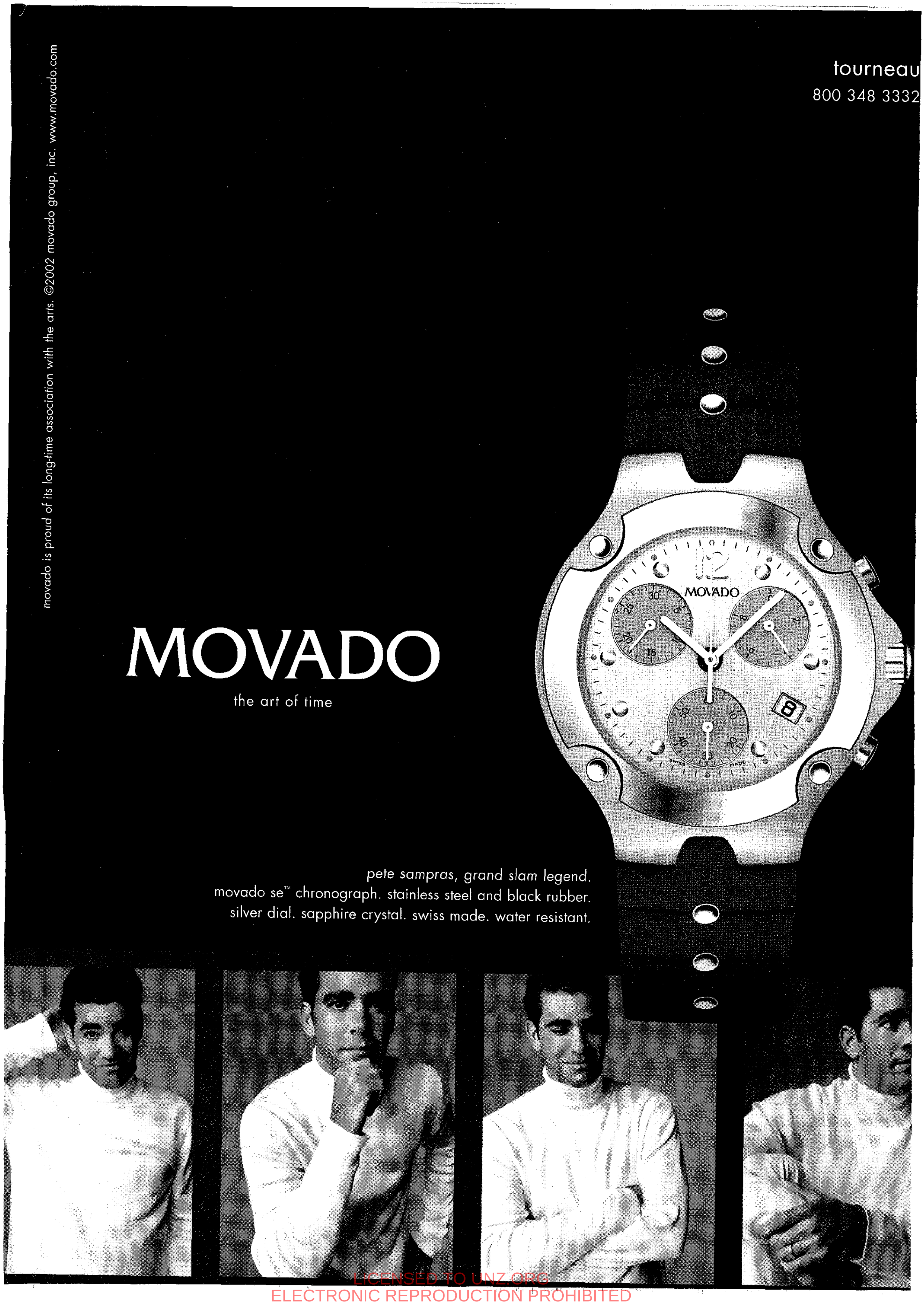

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New York Metro has been planning for all your holiday needs—so you don't have to. Visit our online guide to great gift ideas, restaurants, charities, and more at newyorkmetro.com/holidays.

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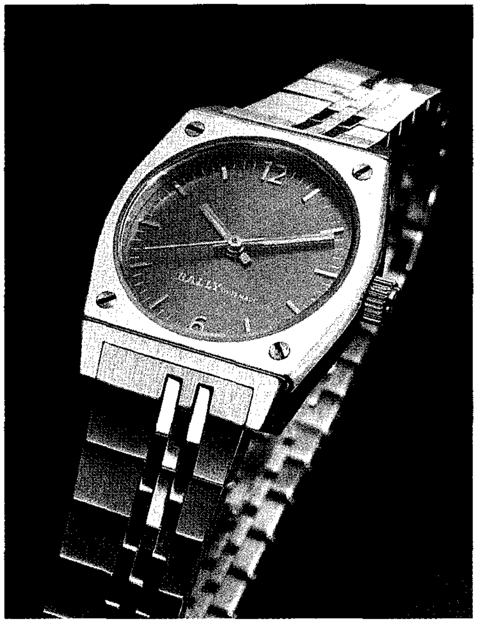

82 TIMELESS: Bally's women's watch, $550.

101 FRESH: Calypso Marine spray, $50.

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55 FUNKY: K2 Seth Pistol skis, $750.

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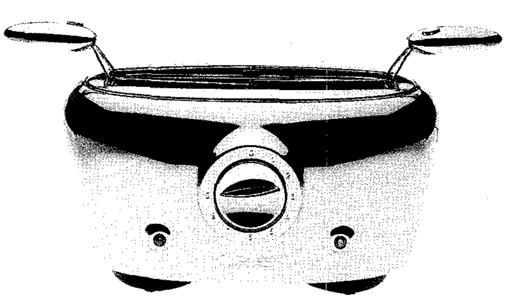

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November 25, 2002—VOL. 35, NO. 41. Periodicals postage paid at New York, New York, and additional mailing offices. *New York* Magazine (ISSN #0028-7369) is published weekly (except for six combined issues: Jan. 21 & 28; Mar. 25 & Apr. 1; June 24 & July 1; July 29 & Aug.5; Aug. 26 & Sept. 2; and Dec. 23 & 30) by Primedia Magazines Inc., 444 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022-6999. Editorial and business offices: 212-508-0700. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to New York, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235. Subscription rates in the U.S. and possessions: 46 issues, $29.90. For subscription assistance, write to New York Magazine Subscription Department, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235. Or call 800-678-0900 or 212-447-4749. Printed in the U.S.A.

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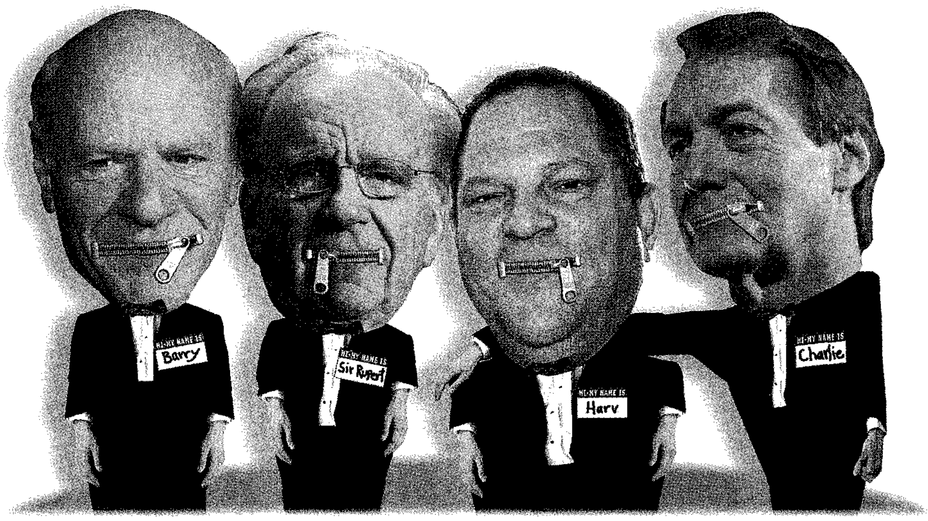
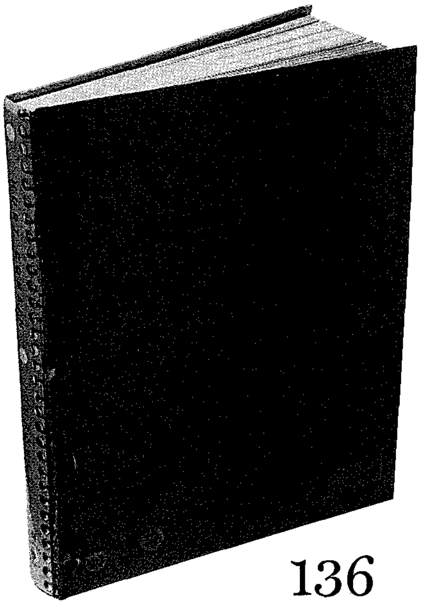
ON THE COVER: PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHAGO AKII-BUA AND BRIAN JONES; WREATH CREATED BY STONEKELLY EVENTS & FLORALS.

32 "I couldn't stop myself from telling these moguls how unhappy everybody is in the media business. That it is being pulled apart by a bigness-induced psychosis." —Michael Wolff



"*The Quiet American* is a love story and a murder mystery that expands into a meditation on the deep deceptions of innocence." —Peter Rainer 134



136 "In the final years, Cobain had conquered a kingdom he didn't want and couldn't rule. He's an American Hamlet—sweet prince on dope." —John Homans on Kurt Cobain's *Journals*

Carnivores who successfully polish off Don Shula's football-size porterhouse will be inducted into the 48 Oz. Club, now 18,000 members and counting. —Cue Restaurants

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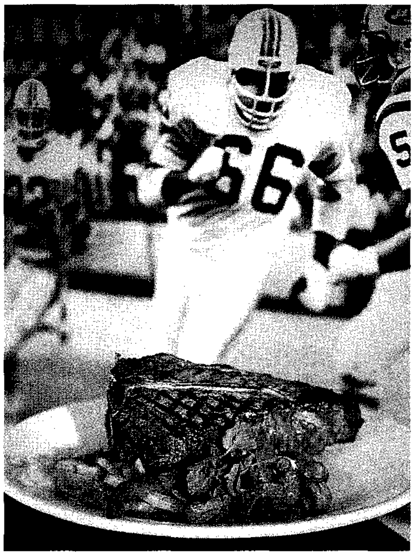

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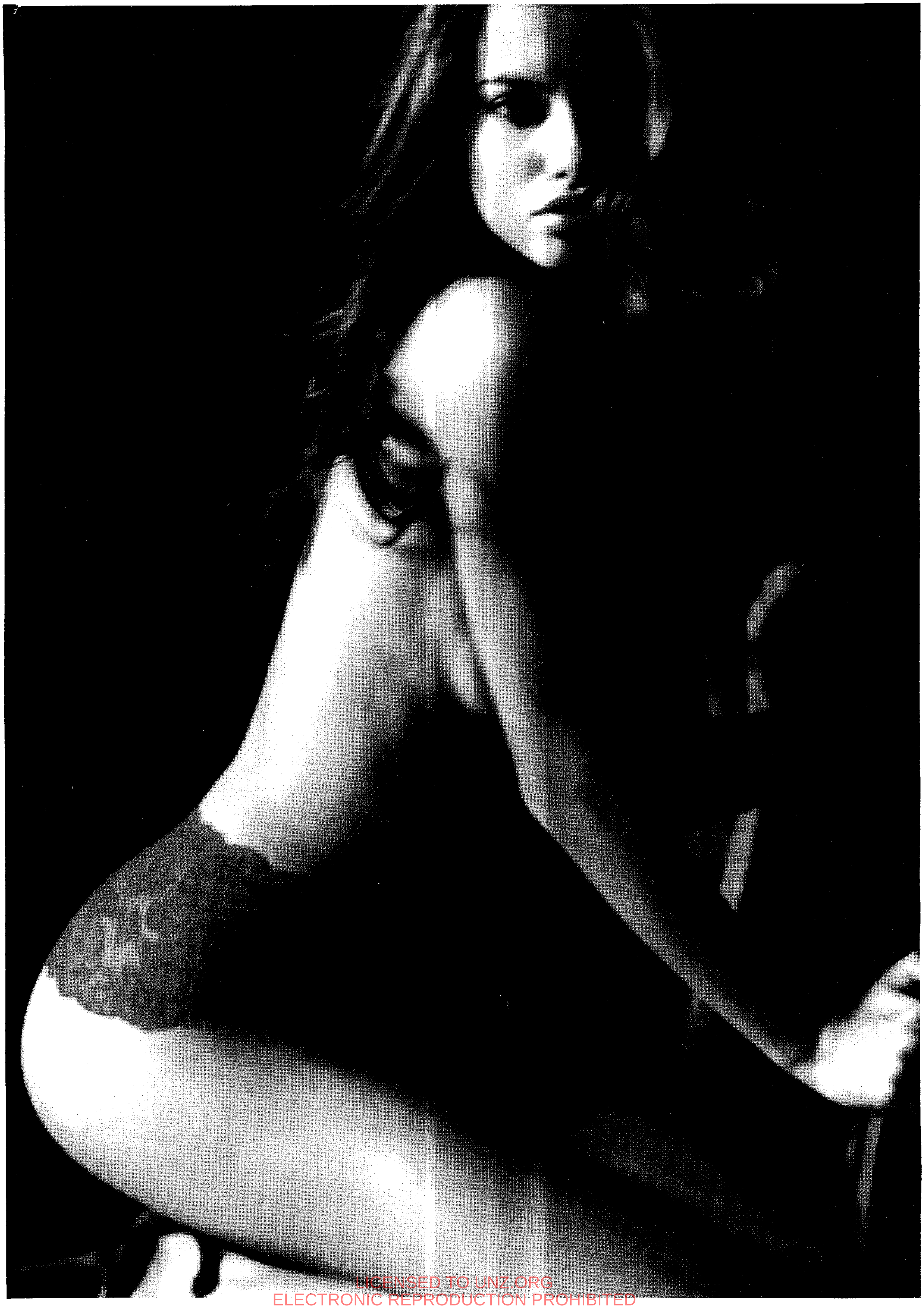

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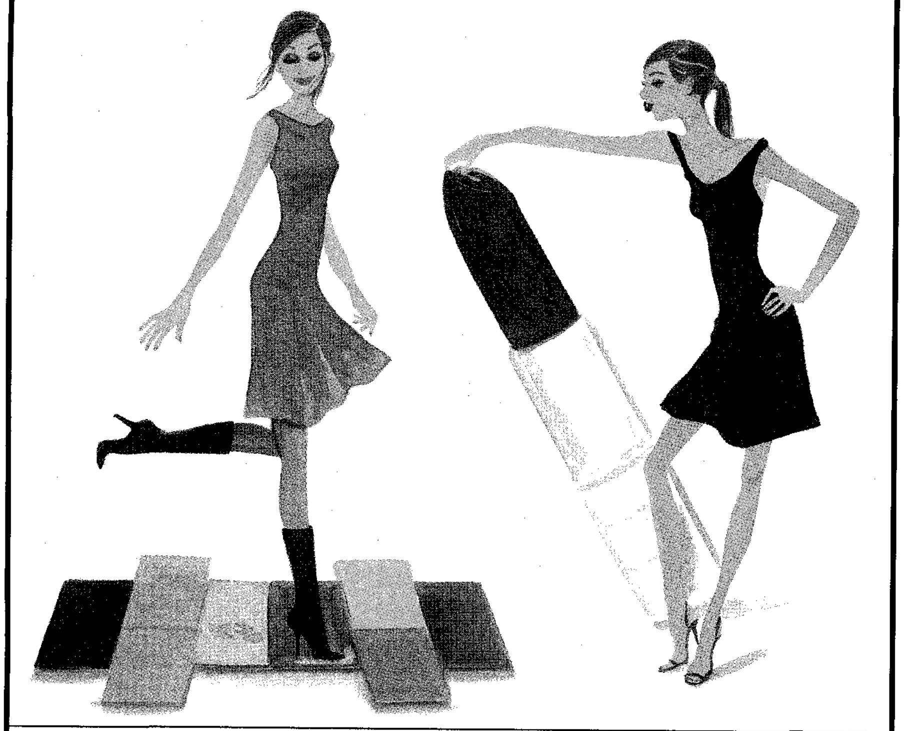

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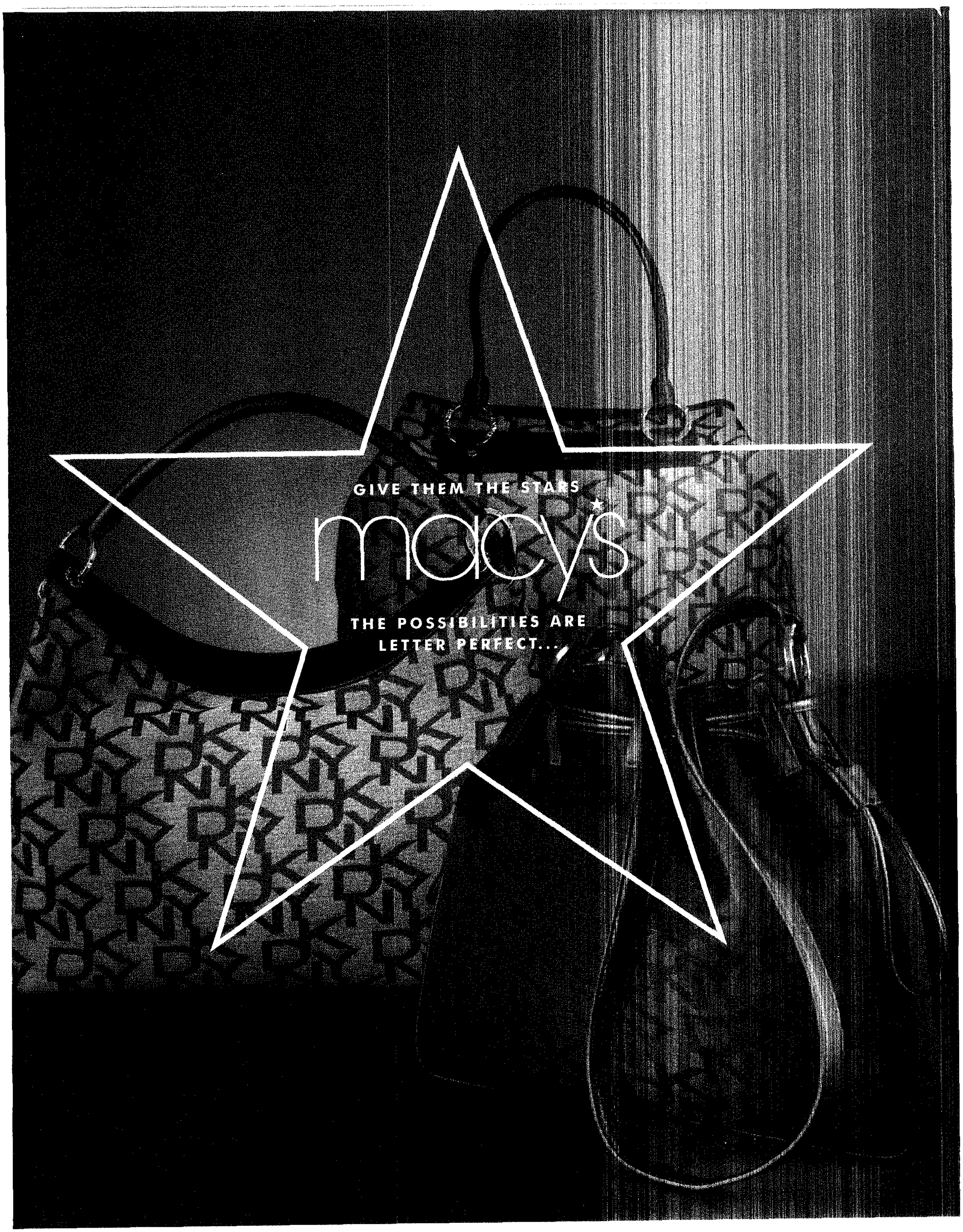
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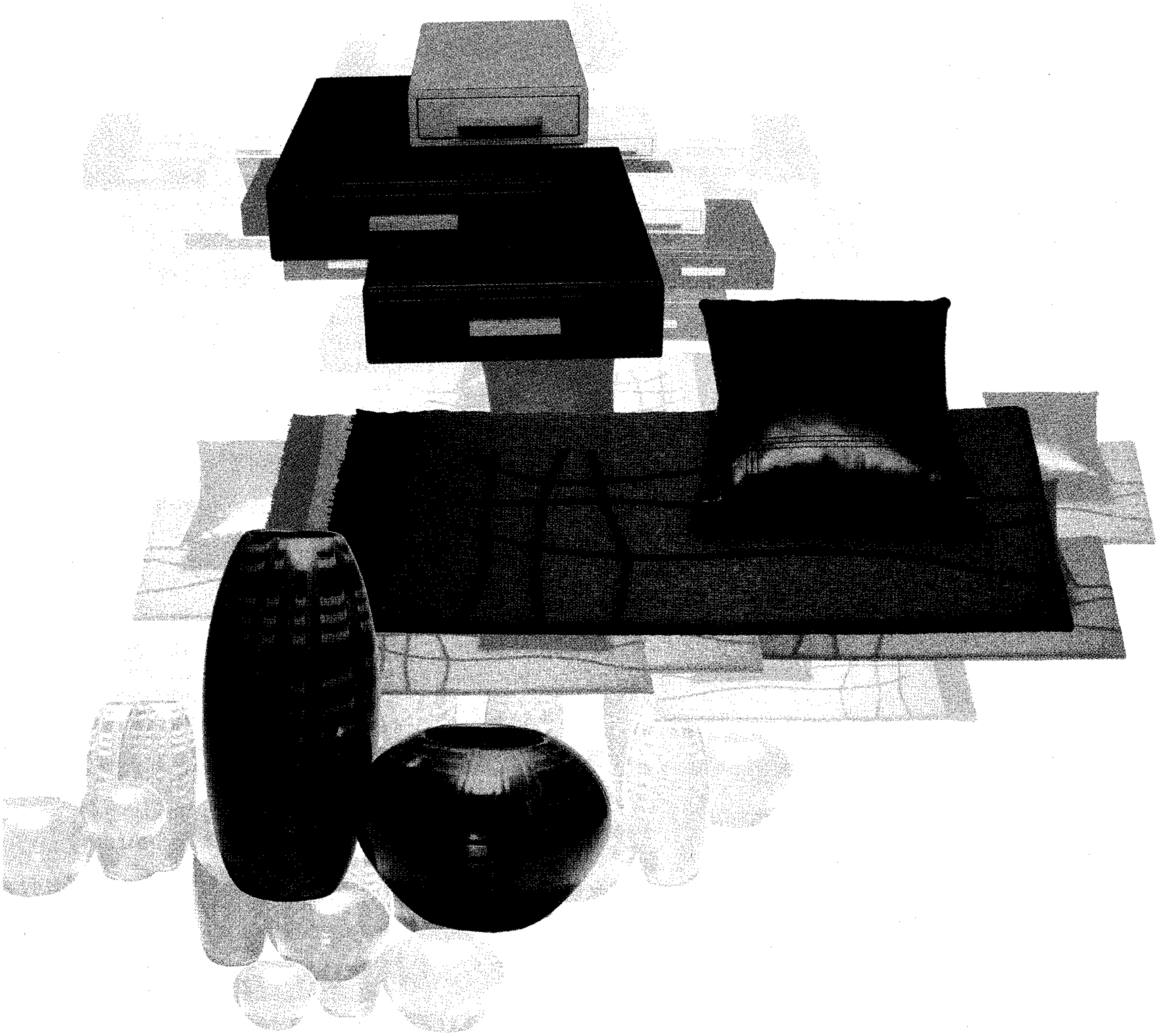

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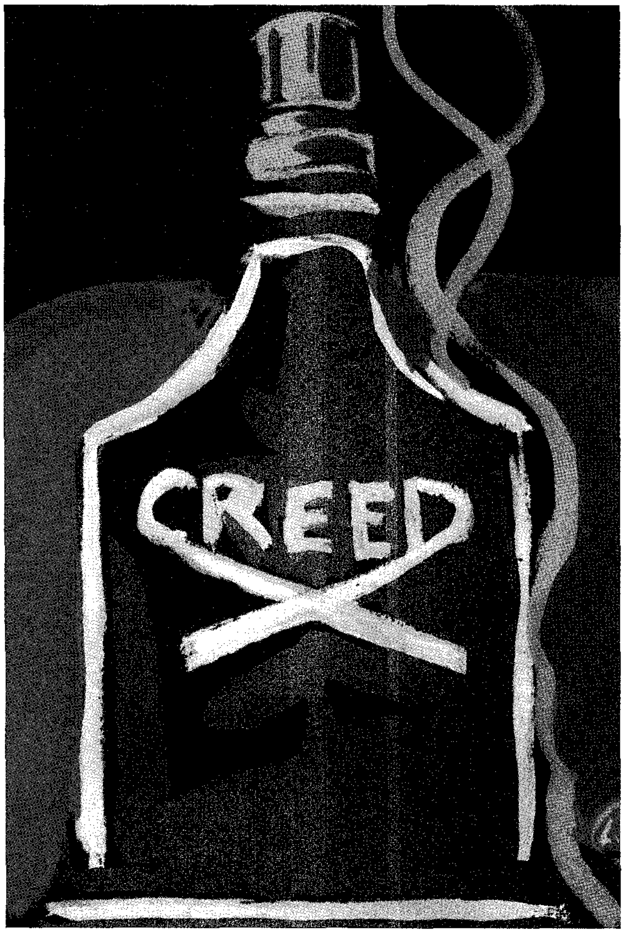

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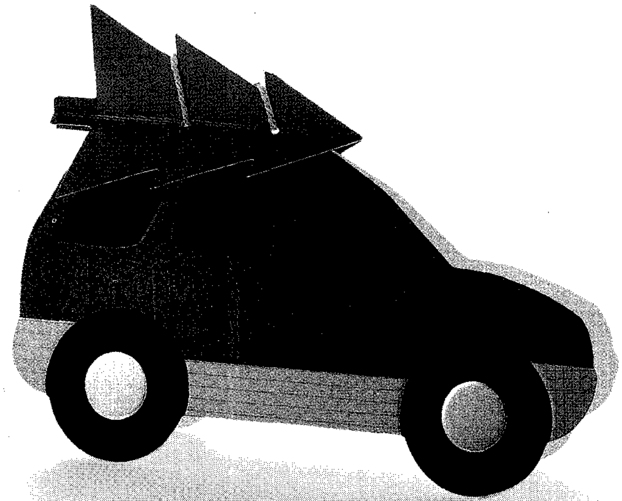

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Letters

Poor Little Rich Churls

It was truly refreshing to read Robert Kolker's exposé on the rising cost of living in New York ["Financial Passages," November 4]. However, Mr. Kolker did not go nearly deep enough to describe the hellish realms of those forced to survive on a budget. I once met a sweet deb, recently graduated from Harvard, who was forced to sell her body on the streets of Williamsburg like some state-educated floozy in order to pay off her bar tab at Luxx. How could she have possibly managed, with a salary slightly below $100,000, when the limo service charges $400 for a carafe of Cristal, when the doorman expects a tip at Christmas? Just last week, a couple burst into my office in tears. Their decision to work only when they felt like it had cut their expenses to the point where they had recently been forced to let go of their sous-chef and second nanny. Young Dylan has already had to renege on the summer share he was planning with his playgroup. "Isn't there a tax cut for this sort of thing?" they cried. Where are the city programs to support these people? Why does Mayor Bloomberg continue to ignore these issues? My only hope is that this letter could somehow inspire Mr. Kolker, with his unerring ear for the common man (the Jacob Riis of the twenty-first century?), to write more articles that will effect change in a political and social system that rewards few but the very wealthy.

Michael Buening, JERSEY CITY, N.J.

What a shame that the most realistic story in "Financial Passages" was given the least amount of space. Among the various "struggling" wealthy types, Rose, the downsized 64-year-old Queens resident, appeared to be quite satisfied living within her financial means. It would have been nice to know more about her, and less about the others, most of whom seem to have acquired that familiar mentality of "keeping up with the Joneses."

J. Siewert, MANHATTAN

Thank you so much for your story "Financial Passages." I always suspected that those "fabulous" New Yorkers that I envied, with their awesome salaries, Man-

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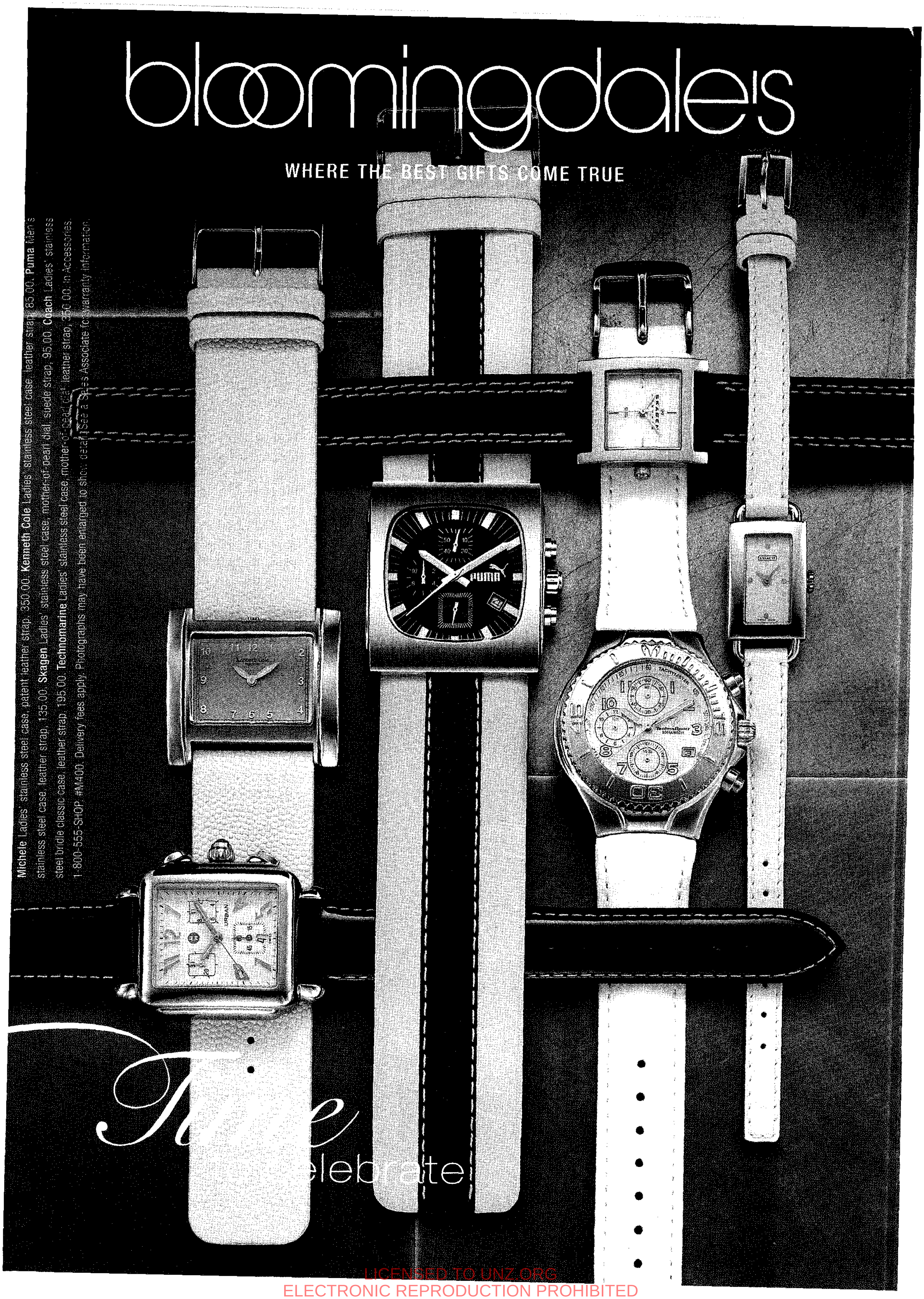

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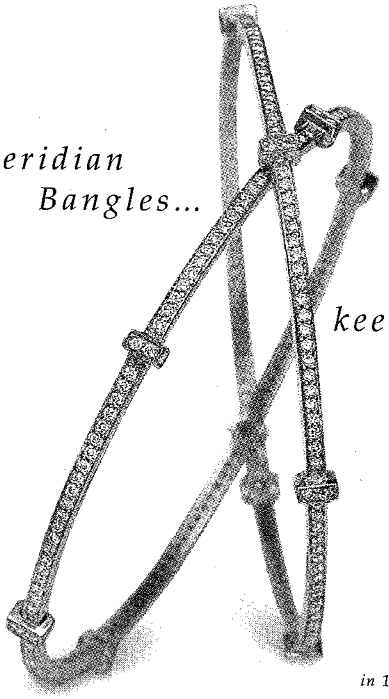

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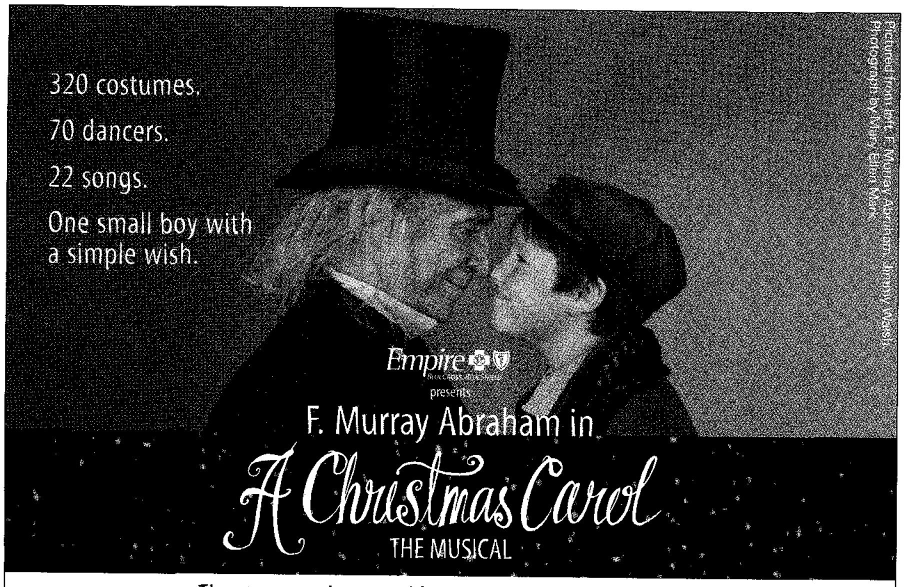

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hattan lives, nannies, and kids in prep school, had to have pressure somewhere. Thank you so much for the reality check and for saving me from a future of doubting my choices.

Jill Cherpack, ARDMORE, PA.

When was the colorful fabric of New York bleached white? Where did all the savvy, street-smart, self-reliant, tough-minded individualists go? What a sad lot of self-indulgent wimps.

R. Cheryl Boyd, BERWYN, PA.

While Robert Kolker's article does a good job of showing how even affluent professionals can have a hard time affording what they consider to be a good life in New York, I think it lacks a sense of perspective about how hundreds of thousands of New York City residents live, especially the poor. In the eyes of those who live in poverty, downgrading from Le Bernardin to Balthazar is hardly a "financial crisis." The mothers of New York children living in poverty aren't worrying about nannies, drinks at Lotus, weekends in the Hamptons, or private-school tuition; they are concerned about finding enough food for their families and avoiding having their utilities shut off. When two people who make a combined income of $400,000 say "we're not rich or anything," it shows just how twisted affluent New Yorkers' perceptions are.

David Kleinbard, JERSEY CITY, N.J.

Just another confirmation of the pleasures of living in the Midwest!

Nada Fremder-Krauss, ST. LOUIS, MO.

I found it extremely hard to feel any sympathy for the "plight" of those profiled in your story. I live in New York on an income of between $25,000 and $30,000 a year; I am putting one daughter through UCLA and another through junior college. Please tell "Barton," the "aging renter" forced to make do on $750,000 a year, that I would love to spend just one hour describing my financial situation and then ask him if he would like to trade places with me. I'll even pay for the Starbucks, since he and most of the others are so down and out.

Jay Leslie, MANHATTAN

Call me cynical, but I'm not sympathetic. I'm Brooklyn-born and -bred and know I can never live in the city again. The folks you portrayed are just going to have to get used to living on less or take their expensive lifestyles elsewhere.

Michael Charton, PARSIPPANY, N.J.

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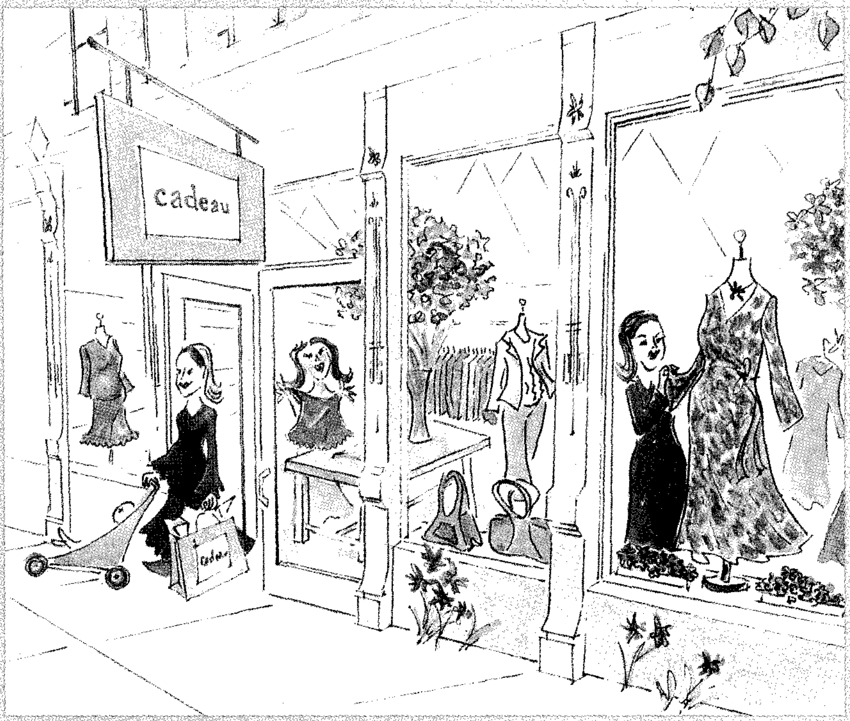

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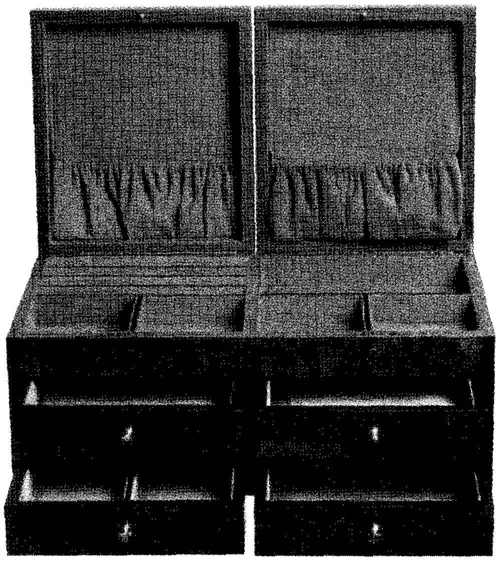

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LETTERS

I'm a 21-year-old junior at NYU. I don't have any credit-card debt, pay for all my own expenses, and thought I had a bright future ahead of me. I've just finished reading "Financial Passages" and now know I'll probably make a crappy salary out of college and amass a lot of debt getting drunk at the right clubs. Or I will make money and still won't be able to afford anything I need, like tuition at a respectable preschool because not just any preschool can teach block building or scissors. My sincere thanks for a probing, extremely well-written article, but I think I'll go kill myself now.

Jess Kimball, MANHATTAN

Nicole's Nose

While we were flattered by your headline that Harvey Weinstein and Scott Rudin make "first-class movies they really care about (as do the grown-ups who see them)," we wanted to clarify a couple of other issues raised in your story on *The Hours* ["Hollywood: The Id Couple," by Anne Thompson, November 4]. We share Scott's enthusiasm for this terrific film and have already been working closely with our partners at Paramount to promote it for award consideration. As for Nicole Kidman's prosthetic nose, Harvey not only denied that he "went ballistic" over it but explained to the magazine that he's "always loved the nose that Nicole dons in the film." Our routine request for hair-and-makeup tests were made by co-president of production Meryl Poster, who was overseeing the project, not by Harvey. And while the passion that Miramax executives Agnes Mentre and Mark Gill felt for *In the Bedroom* was a critical factor in our acquiring the Sundance standout, your suggestion that Harvey "hated" it is inaccurate. Harvey's only concern was the film's potential commercial appeal. Over the years, Miramax has been proud of our role in producing and distributing "high-profile, literate" films like *The Hours* and *Iris,* and we look forward to sharing future success with Scott Rudin and Paramount on these types of films.

Matthew Hiltzik, SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, MIRAMAX FILMS, MANHATTAN

Fit for Office?

I found Michael Tomasky's reference to Florida governor Jeb Bush as "pudgy Jebby" ["The City Politic: Race Against Time," November 4] to be gratuitous and childish in the extreme. Out of curiosity, Michael, how's your six-pack coming along?

Mark Woodcock, MANHATTAN

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CHRISTMAS WEEK						
MON., DEC. 23	TUES., DEC. 24	WED., DEC. 25	THURS., DEC. 26	FRI., DEC. 27	SAT., DEC. 28	SUN., DEC. 29
8PM	NO PERF	8PM	2PM/8PM	8PM	2PM/8PM	3PM
NEW YEAR'S WEEK						
MON., DEC. 30	TUES., DEC. 31	WED., JAN. 1	THURS., JAN. 2	FRI., JAN. 3	SAT., JAN. 4	SUN., JAN. 5
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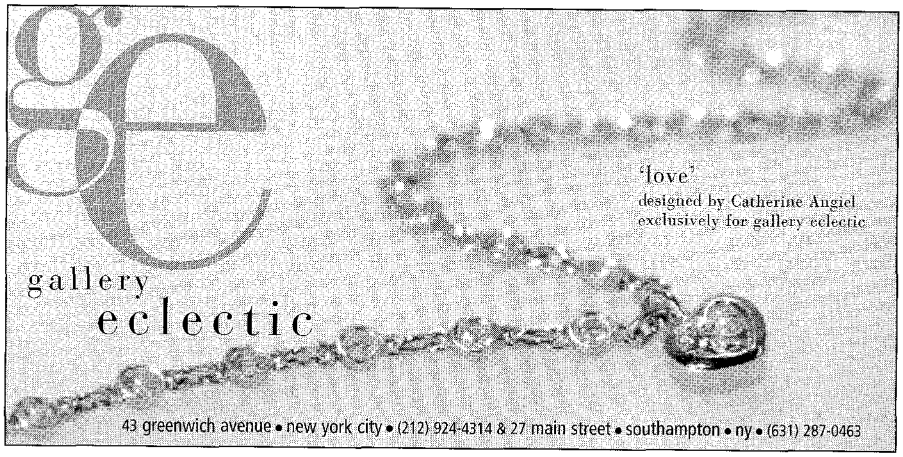

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LETTERS

Worker Bees of the World

Jeffrey Epstein's statement that "the behavior of termites, together with ants and bees, is a precursor to trust because they have an extraordinary ability to form relationships and sophisticated social structures based on mutual altruism" ["Jeffrey Epstein: International Moneyman of Mystery," by Landon Thomas Jr., October 28] illustrates his surprising unfamiliarity with the insect world—as well as his understandable lack of experience with the less-than-senior job force of the corporate world. Apparently, Mr. Epstein has never heard the term *worker bee.*

Jeff Stavish, QUEENS

Mr. Right Responds

Kyle York Spencer has so convincingly mixed truth with innuendo, and fact with fiction, that even readers who know me are led to believe that I may indeed be the smug, self-centered gigolo portrayed in "Buying Mr. Right" [October 7]. Those who come to work with me at Beyond Pilates and the New York Sports Clubs, where I teach classes and train fitness professionals, do so for the high level of instruction I offer. My clientele and I have a completely professional relationship that does not keep me from attending the occasional birthday or engagement party. The insinuation that female clients pay for anything other than general advice on fitness and nutrition is, at the very least, disturbing. Ms. Spencer portrays them as weak, insecure, co-dependent neurotics and not the strong, focused, and independent people I know.

Ed Morand, MANHATTAN

Correction: In a review of *Book of Days* in last week's Theater column ("Off Shaw," by John Simon, November 18), the actress Susan Kellermann was mistakenly identified as Sally Kellermann. *New York* regrets the error. ■

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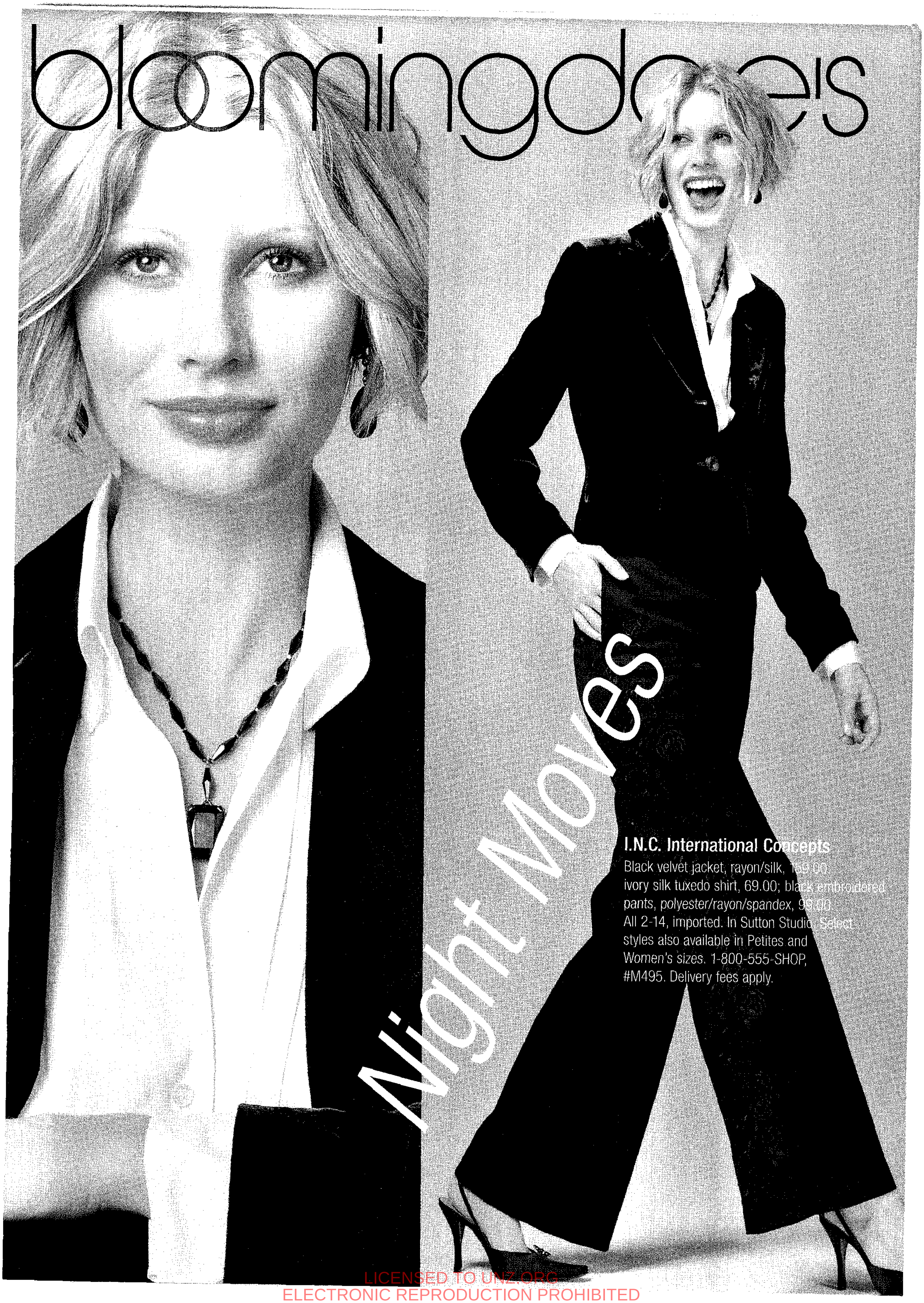

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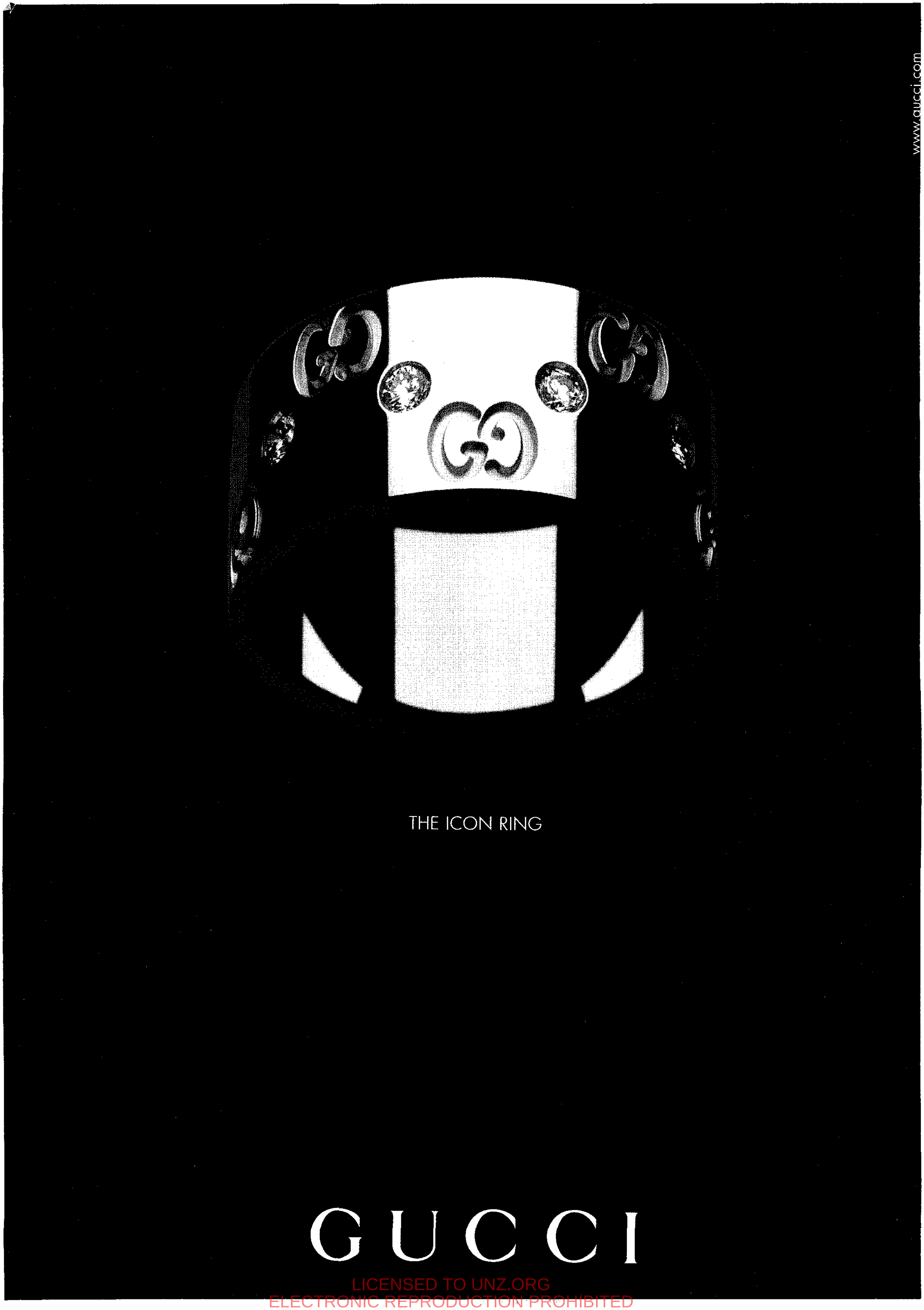
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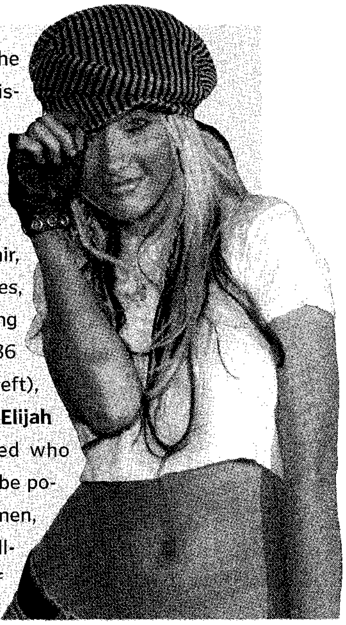
Intelligencer

By Marc S. Malkin

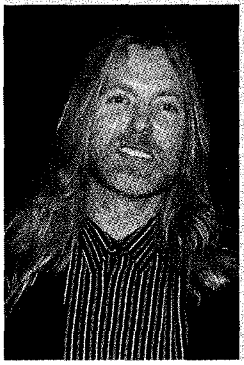
John Podhoretz Finds Free Love

For years, ultraconservative columnist **John Podhoretz** has used his writing skill to try to win hearts and minds for his brand of red-meat Republicanism. Now it's won him and his new bride, *Saturday Night Live* associate producer **Ayala Cohen**, a free honeymoon in Hawaii. By registering for their wedding at Bloomingdale's, the lucky lovebirds—who met two years ago on matchmaker.com—became automatically eligible for the store's Enchanted Moment writing contest. Competition was stiff—around 2,000 couples submitted short essays on the moment they knew it was forever. In his winning write-up, the hard-nosed journalist (left) gets misty-eyed over a trip to Cape Cod in which the couple got lost and found their way back. "Ayala's ease and calm had already gifted me with a wondrously new sense of comfort in my own skin. As we wandered about the Cape in a green VW bug on a night so dark no stars showed themselves, we made our own light. And when we turned round the Orleans rotary and knew the way home at last, I knew I had found my way home for the remainder of my days." After their October 13 wedding, Podhoretz's essay win garnered them an eleven-day, ten-night trip to Hawaii. They flew business class and were put up at the Westin Maui. Mazel tov, John and Ayala!

Christina Aguilera Tunes Out Gregg Allman



Christina Aguilera may be one of pop music's dirtiest divas, but even she has her standards. On a recent night at John Street Bar in the Financial District, **Gregg Allman**, the grizzled seventies sex symbol, was seen approaching a table where the Staten Island native—sporting pink hot pants, knee-high boots, and fishnets—was cavorting with six female friends. "They all looked horrified," says one onlooker. "I mean, here was [Allman] with his shoulder-length scraggly hair, cowboy hat and vest, and wraparound sunglasses, and they had no idea who he was." Perhaps trying to help out, the D.J. promptly put on Allman's 1986 song "I'm No Angel." The 54-year-old Allman (left), former **Cher** beau and father of the singer's son **Elijah Blue**, pointed to the speakers and explained who he was. "You could tell they were all trying to be polite," our spy says about the now-clued-in women, "but pretty soon they ran out of stuff to say." Allman's rep insists it must have been a case of mistaken identity.



Caroline Rhea's Cups Runneth Over

Buzz coming from the set of **Caroline Rhea**'s (pictured) new talk show is that there's been some tension between the host and her executives. Sources tells us that Rhea was chewed out by **Hilary Estey McLoughlin**, general manager of Telepictures—which produces the show—because Rhea wore a low-cut top showing lots of cleavage when she did a taped interview with **Pierce Brosnan** to air on November 25. Rhea apparently thought it would be funny to do her best Bond Girl routine for the *Die Another Day* star, but Telepictures felt she went a bit too far for a family-friendly program. "Hilary told Caroline that advertisers think breasts on the show is a no-no," one insider tells us. Rhea insists she and McLoughlin never argued about her top shelf. "The only thing that might have happened is that Hilary's jealous because I'm a D-cup and she's a C-cup," Rhea joked when she called to refute our story. Another rumor making the rounds at the show is that consulting producer **Mary Connelly** is leaving to executive-produce another Telepictures project, the upcoming **Ellen DeGeneres** talk show, and that Rhea gets mad at the mere mention of Ellen's name. Again, Rhea insists that's not so. "I don't mind hearing about Ellen or **Sharon Osbourne**'s new show," she said. "But I don't like hearing about **David Hasselhoff**, but I don't want to get into that."

Lizzie's Friends on the Outside

If jailbird **Lizzie Grubman** is chowing down on Devil Dogs, Oreos, and Snickers bars from the Suffolk County Jail commissary, it's because she has no other options. We're told that the fallen power girl's favorite East End bagelry, Twice Upon a Bagel in Wainscott, recently tried—and failed—to send her a care package. "She likes a lot of the things we do here—cinnamon crumb sticks, sliced salmon, egg salad, some tofu spreads," says shop owner **Steve Vaccaro**, who still displays a Lizzie-signed cover blowup of the August 1999 *New York* "Hamptons" issue, in which Grubman declared her weakness for his fare. "I offered to send her some food. The family looked into it but told me I couldn't." And as for the autographed poster? "I'm

PHOTOGRAPHS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT, JEN LOWERY/LFI; DENNIS VAN TINE/LFI; MARINA GARNIER; MICHAEL FERGUSON/GLOBE PHOTOS.

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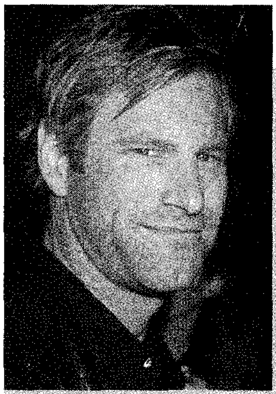

Aaron Eckhart: Bad Company?

Sounds like **Aaron Eckhart** could use some help with anger management. The actor—best known for playing **Julia Roberts**'s boyfriend in *Erin Brockovich* and a chauvinist pig in *In the Company of Men*—was last seen being escorted out of **Demi Moore**'s 40th-birthday bash at Guy's bar in West Hollywood at about 3:30 A.M. on November 10. "One of the security guards was pushing him up against the wall," reports our spy, adding that the stumbling Eckhart "looked really bad." The guard tried to reason with him, says our source, explaining that "they were doing this for his own good," at which point Eckhart apparently told the guard that he was "going to call his lawyer and fuck him up." Guy's manager confirmed to us that Eckhart was there that night but denied that he caused any trouble. It wouldn't be the first time Eckhart has been less than charming in public. During the Cannes Film Festival in 2001, he got into a tussle with a man who thought Eckhart was getting a little too chummy with his girlfriend. The fight ended in hysterics after Eckhart pulled off the guy's toupee. Around the same time, he got into a war of words with a young woman at another party who told him he looked familiar. "If you don't know who the fuck I am, you don't have the right to ask me." He then snapped, "I hate all you publicist whores."

still not taking it down," Vaccaro says firmly. "Every once in a while, someone will turn around and say something, depending on what side of the fence they're on, you know, friend or foe."

Levin Scales Back

Retired AOL Time Warner chief **Gerald Levin** is downsizing. We hear that Levin and his wife, **Barbara**, are selling their Manhattan home of ten years—a three-bedroom triplex maisonette at the exclusive River House on Sutton Place. The apartment, designed and decorated by Barbara herself and featured in *Architectural Digest* just six months ago, boasts everything from an oval office with Thai-silk-covered walls to an entryway where their names are stenciled in Celtic lettering. But they won't be moving far. They'll live in a neighboring Moroccan-themed two-bedroom they bought two years ago.

NAKED CHEF: Pico chef **John Villa** is among a group of culinary Casanovas who are about to take the full-frontal plunge. The 32-year-old New Jersey native tells us that he's posing in the raw next week for an "article" on young chefs slated for the April issue of *Playgirl*. "It started out being partially nude, but now it's showing everything," he says. The spread will feature one other New York chef and one from Las Vegas, each in his restaurant kitchen. "Some might pose a little more strategically with kitchen utensils," the mag's editor-in-chief, **Michele Zipp**, concedes. But Villa hopes to persuade his colleagues to drop their aprons altogether. "I think I'm the first to say yes" to complete nudity, he says, "so I figure the rest will have to go along, too." Zipp declined to name the other chefs.

ALLY'S IN: Ally Sheedy has signed on to play one of the inmates in *The Exonerated*, the play **Bob Balaban** is directing at the 45 Bleecker Theater about six people on death row who were eventually found innocent. But while **Marlo Thomas** and **Richard Dreyfuss** have already done their stints on the rotating cast, Balaban's had to wait for Sheedy, who will join the cast from December 10 to 15. She received the script last summer while filming *The Interrogation of Michael Crowe*, a Court TV film based on the true story of a 14-year-old boy who was coerced by the police into falsely confessing to the murder of his sister. "It was really painful," she tells us of her role as the boy's mother, "and it was so similar in subject matter that I told Bob I needed a break."

BAR KEEP: Sources say **Quentin Tarantino** was so enamored of a bar that was built for his upcoming movie, *Kill Bill*, that he's had the entire glass-and-light setup, including the stools and the liquor-display cabinet, shipped from the Tokyo set and installed at his Los Angeles house.

With Aric Chen.

Heard any good gossip lately? E-mail us:
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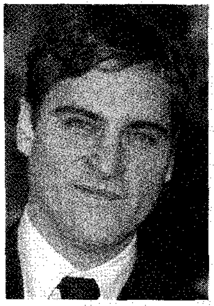
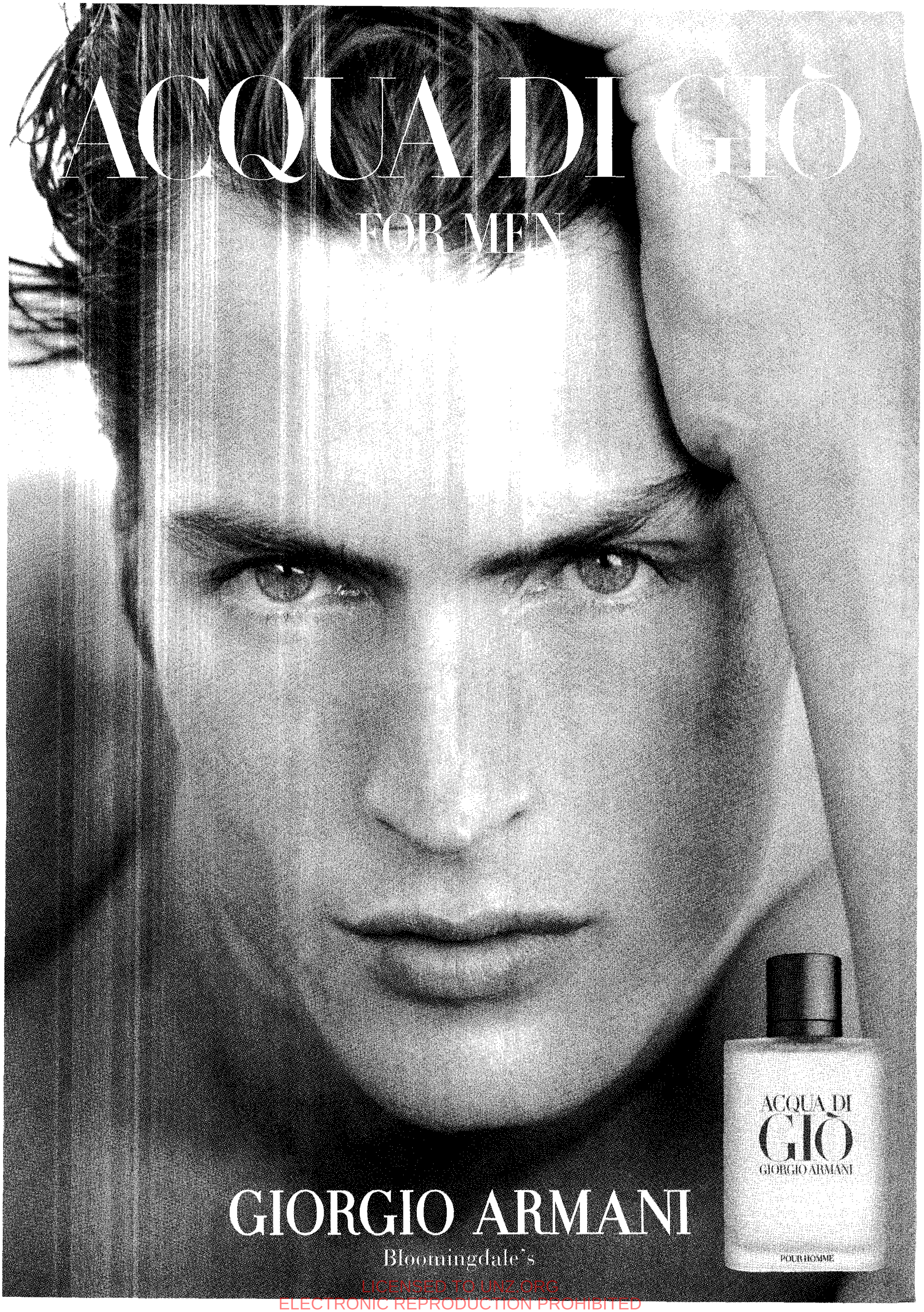
Seen and Heard Around Town



PETA poster-children **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Natalie Portman** avoiding the foie gras, tuna, quail, beef tenderloin, lamb chops, and filet mignon being served at celebutante designer **Zac Posen**'s recent 22nd-birthday bash at the Old Homestead steakhouse and opting for veggie quesadillas and various non-meat finger food instead. . . . The next night, **Julian Schnabel** was in and said he'd like to paint a portrait of Annabelle the Cow—the bovine statue perched atop the restaurant—for a possible Atlantic City Homestead. . . . **Janet Jackson** and **Missy Elliott** waiting in SUVs outside Lotus for 40 minutes as their bodyguards checked out the O-Town record-release party. Jackson, Elliott, and their posses eventually took over the downstairs lounge, where they celebrated Elliott's new CD, joined by O-Town members **Ashley Parker Angel** and **Trevor Penick**, until the wee hours. . . . ABC News anchor **Peter Jennings** at Taperia Madrid on the Upper East Side throwing red roses to La Maha, a flamenco dancer better known in media circles as **Dan Rather**'s spokesperson, **Kim Akhtar**. . . . **Martha Stewart**'s embattled stockbroker **Peter Bacanovic** telling a friend at Gold's Gym on West 54th Street that he'll probably spend New Year's in Palm Beach.

PHOTOGRAPHS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, HENRY MCGEE/GLOBE PHOTO; FITZROY BARRETT/GLOBE PHOTOS; LOCKWOOD/GLOBE PHOTOS.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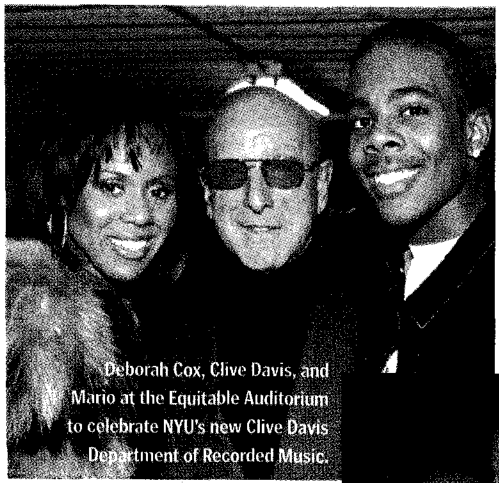
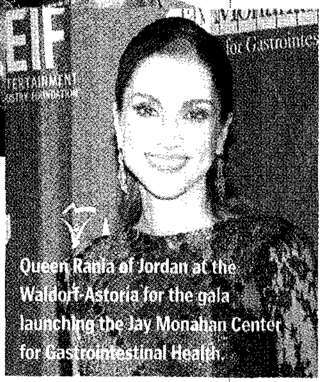
Scene

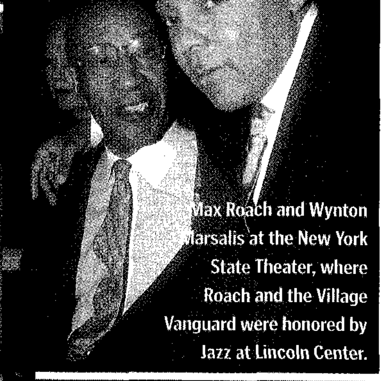
Carla Fendi and Lil' Kim at the Fendi Boutique for an Ovarian Cancer Research Fund benefit.



Deborah Cox, Clive Davis, and Mario at the Equitable Auditorium to celebrate NYU's new Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music.

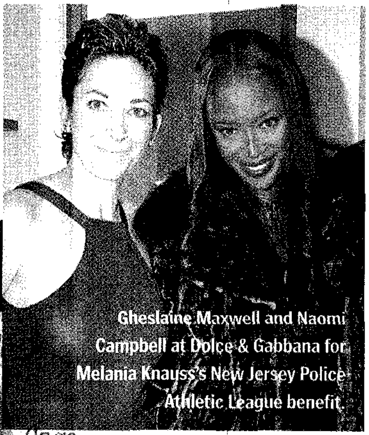


Queen Rania of Jordan at the Waldorf-Astoria for the gala launching the Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health.

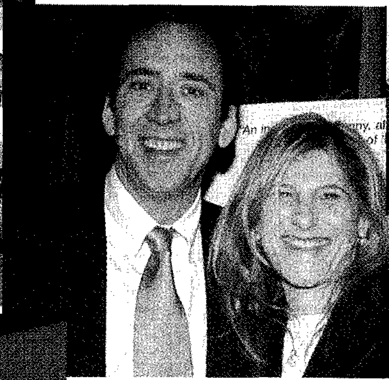


Max Roach and Wynton Marsalis at the New York State Theater, where Roach and the Village Vanguard were honored by Jazz at Lincoln Center.

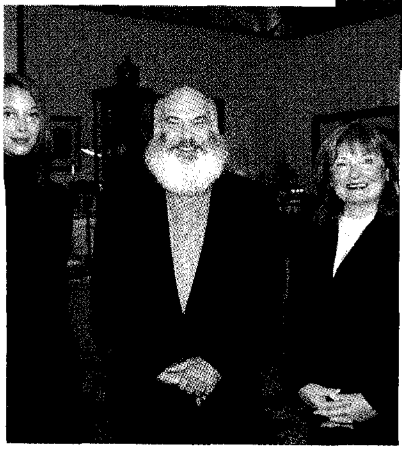
Viscountess Linley, Burberry chief executive Rose Marie Bravo, and Viscount Linley at the opening of Burberry's flagship store on 57th Street.



Gheslaine Maxwell and Naomi Campbell at Dolce & Gabbana for Melania Knauss's New Jersey Police Athletic League benefit.



Nicolas Cage and Sony Pictures Entertainment vice-chairman Amy Pascal following a screening of *Adaptation*.



Christy Turlington, Dr. Andrew Weil, and Bath & Body Works president and CEO Beth Pritchard at the Bath & Body Works Well-Being Summit.

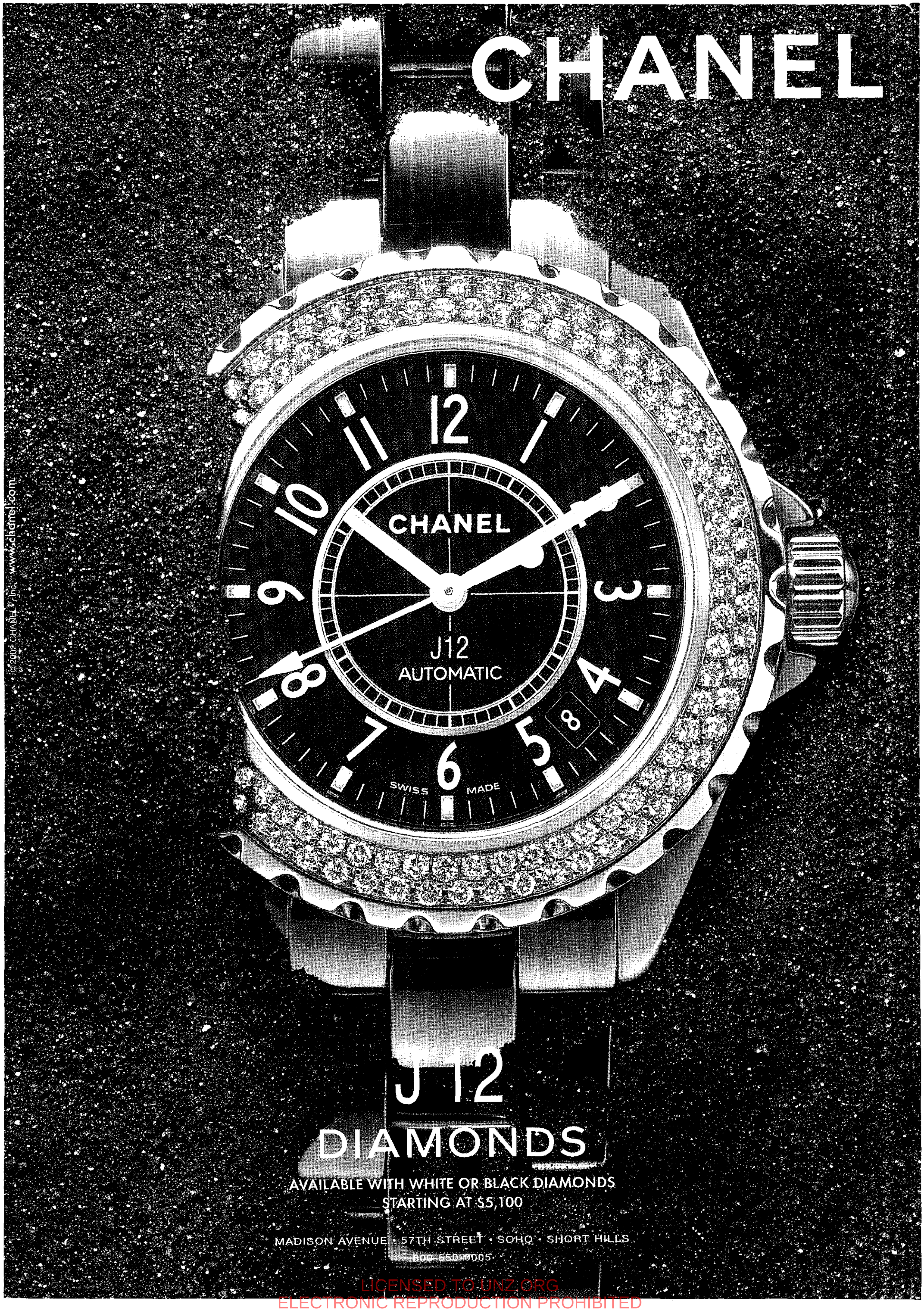
FertileHope founder Lindsay Nohr with Lance and Kristin Armstrong at Bayard's.

Fashion Trip

High fashion met a perilously low runway at the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund benefit held at the Fendi Boutique on November 12. Before night's end, **Nan Kempner** and three others, including a photographer, had tripped over the easy-to-miss catwalk while wandering through the store. "I was so embarrassed," Kempner said once **Dr. Patricia Wexler** had treated her bumped head and bleeding shins. "I saw a beautiful bag on the shelf and, greedy that I am, I went for it—and went down like a big fish. *Kerplunk!* But the worst part was, I missed the fashion show! Maybe they'll feel sorry for me and give me a present?" **Carla Fendi**, meanwhile, steered through a crowd including **Holly Hunter**, **Glenda Bailey**, **Vera Wang**, and Miss Universe's flatmates—Miss USA and Miss Teen USA. Fendi schmoozed remarkably well for someone who doesn't speak English. "*In New York, inglese non importa,*" she purred to us. **Christine Beranski** left soon after the parade of fur coats began. "I have furry things in my house, but we try to let them live and don't often wear them," she said, smiling. But **Lil' Kim** was more than happy to show off her Fendi squirrel-and-chinchilla coat and thigh-high "leather stockings." "That's the manager," she said after a man came forward to kiss her. "They know me well. I must spend—wow—between twenty and thirty a month here and at Christian Dior." And no, she didn't mean twenty dollars.

JADA YUAN

Photographs by Patrick McMullan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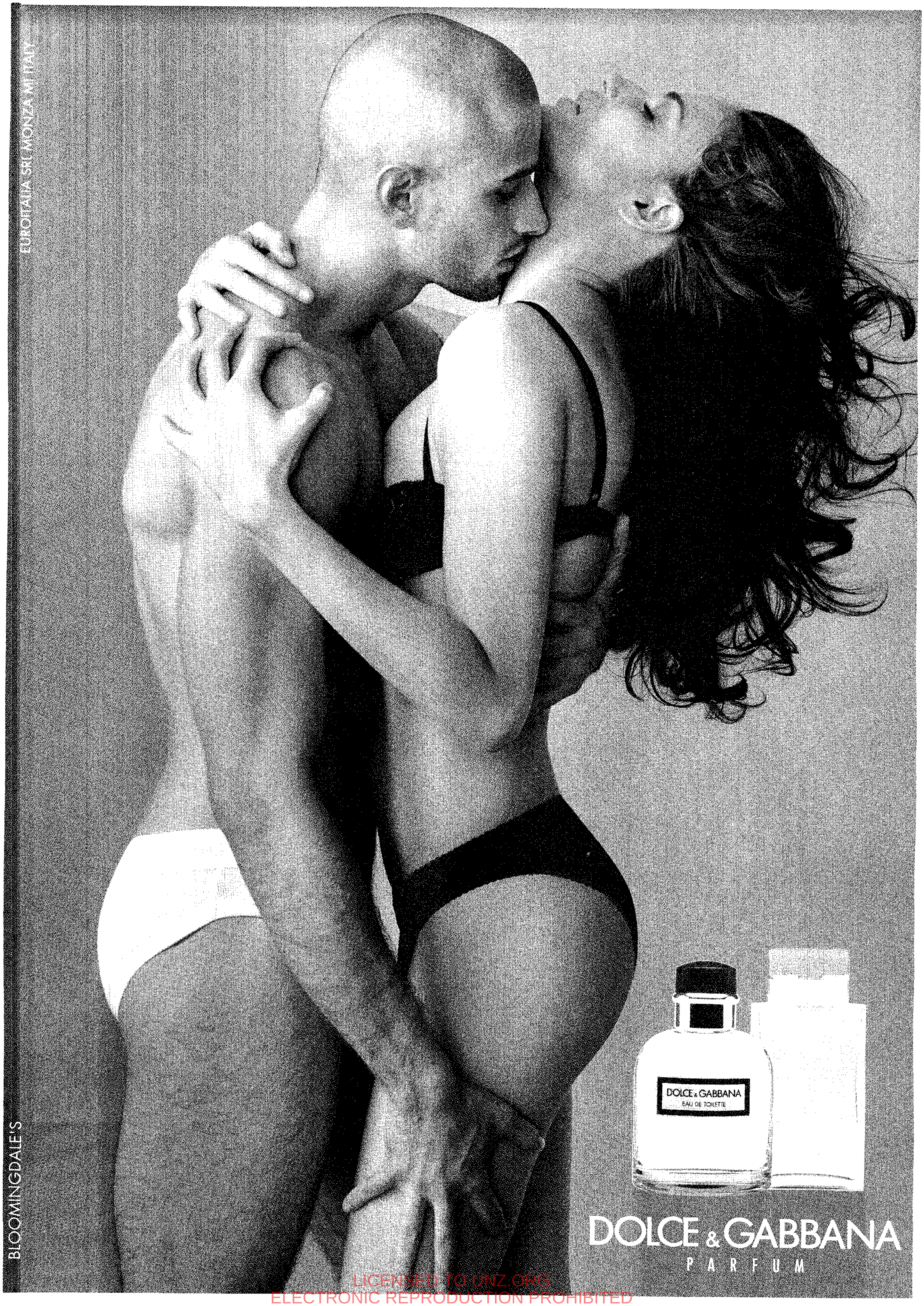
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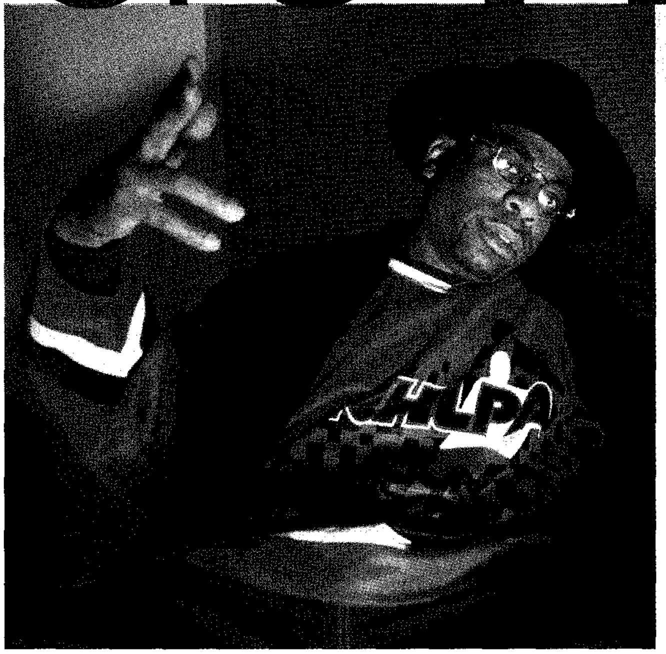
Faces and eyes forever for me—Walt Whitman

GOTHAM



NOT PAID IN FULL: "This outpouring of financial support for Jay"—above—"is based on guilt," says one lawyer.

Life and Debt

Why Jam Master Jay's finances are as much of a mystery as his murder. By Ethan Brown

On a windy Wednesday morning earlier this month, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Busta Rhymes, Russell Simmons, and Foxy Brown summoned the press to the Rihga Royal to announce the creation of a hastily assembled fund intended to tackle the debts of Run-DMC D.J. Jam Master Jay (a.k.a. Jason Mizell), who was shot dead in his Queens recording studio on October 30.

As the morning went on, hip-hop's luminaries presented a united front, but no sooner had they departed than those left behind, a group of music-business attorneys, rappers, and managers, promptly spilled into the lobby to discuss the question puzzling everyone nearly as much as who killed Mizell. *Why* did one of hip-hop's most successful players leave such enormous debts behind? Not only did he owe the IRS $400,000, but he was wrestling with a vast mortgage and allegedly owed substantial sums to, among others, Curtis Scoon, a friend from Queens, who has curiously refused to cooperate with police in their murder investigation.

How could the proceeds from Run-DMC's record sales, tours, and endorsements have evaporated? "Ask Russell Simmons," says Chuck D, the former Public Enemy front man. "Even the Mafia treats its members better than the music business." Simmons, of course, is the brother of Joseph—the Run in Run-DMC—and the group's ex-manager.

"This outpouring of financial support for Jay is based on guilt," adds an attorney close to Simmons's label, Def Jam. "How much did Russell put into his pocket with Run-DMC's endorsement deal with Adidas?"

Simmons insists that he was scrupulous with the band's money. "Jay's finances were no different from any rapper or rock star who hasn't had a hit record in more than nine years," he says, adding, "The question you should be asking is, Did he make wise investments?"

Jay's friends point out that his story is especially odd, since he was neither an M.C. Hammer–like spendthrift nor a naïf. "We're talking about a guy who showed Lyor Cohen the ropes!" says the attorney, referring to the savvy CEO of Island–Def Jam.

Daryl McDaniels (the DMC in Run-DMC) says that although the group made little money from its record sales during the eighties, it did big business touring in the nineties and beyond. "We did 20 to 30 shows per month," McDaniels says. "When we weren't touring with Aerosmith, we were doing colleges. When we weren't doing colleges, we were doing radio shows." Nonetheless, the rapper, whose upcoming solo album, *Checks, Thugs and Rock 'n' Roll,* reflects on the challenges of staying afloat in the music business, defends Simmons. "Russell did the best he could," he says, adding with a sigh: "Our situation is a lot like the early rock-'n'-roll guys'. I don't want to say that we were robbed, but let's just say that if we renegotiated our contracts, we'd be a little wiser now."

"The question you should be asking," says Russell Simmons, "is, Did he make wise investments?"

HOT PLATE: JOEY'S

Where? 186 Avenue B.

Wait a minute, isn't that . . . ? Yes, Joey Gossett's new place—he's partner and little brother of ex-Moombassador Jeff.

But I thought they *closed* bars! Just because they shut Moomba without telling investors (or staff) doesn't mean they can't try again . . .

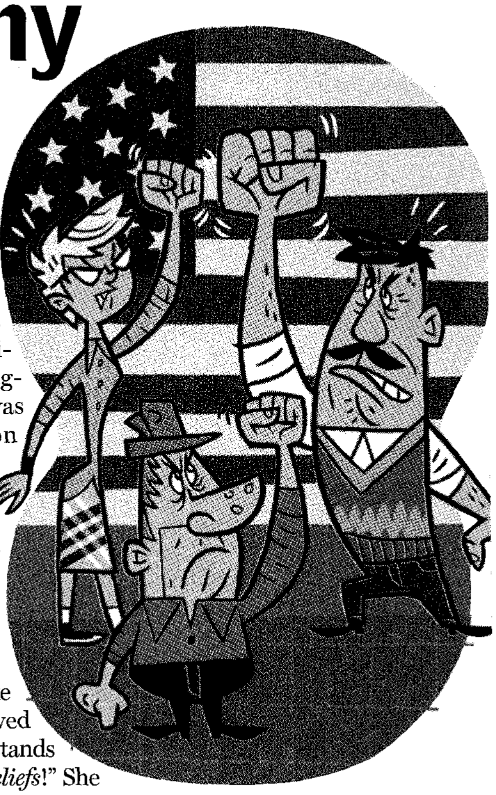
So what's the VIP room like? Don't be so *fin de siècle.* We're not talking Moomba's signature chicken laced with foie gras; the chicken here is fingers and fries. And this is democracy in action! Gisele and Naomi eat their veggie burgers and salad with everyone else; Warner LeRoy's boy, Max, tends bar; and, I'm reliably informed, Vito Schnabel (*fils de* Julian) is a whiz at the video games!

BETH LANDMAN KEIL

ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA KASPER. PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTONIO PAGANO/RETNA.

Bohemian Blasphemy

An American flag? In *our* lobby? The war on Iraq comes home to one West Village building. By David Amsden



It began as a simple gesture—well, simple anywhere but in the Village. After September 11, a doorman at 61 Jane Street hung an American flag in the spacious, well-appointed lobby. Recently, that flag was replaced with a more permanent one, complete with an ersatz-gold pole topped with an ersatz-gold eagle.

Alas, the new Stars and Stripes soon had some residents up in arms: Amy Bauer and her partner, Donna Gould, slipped a letter under the doors of all 260 units, reading in part: "In this time of impending war with the people of Iraq, a show of the flag, to us, means a show of support for the Bush administration and its foreign policy."

Other anti-flaggers felt they were under attack on what should have been home turf. "One man called me a *communist* for wanting to remove the flag!" lamented a disgruntled resident. "Many of us moved to the Village because it was a bastion of liberalism. Some of the new residents, they're here because it's close to Wall Street!"

Hoping to resolve the debate, one resident, Romy Truscelli, circulated a survey with three options: pro-flag all the time, pro-flag only on holidays, anti-flag all the time. Last week, the issue came to a head at a meeting between the building's board and shareholders at the Westbeth Theater, where (after a debate on such other matters as toilet "flushometers") the results were announced. The majority had voted pro-flag on holidays.

Rising from his seat, longtime resident and anti-flagger Victor Cino was incensed: "I'm on the side of Henry David Thoreau," he cried, "who said that the majority is sometimes wrong!"

A pro-flag woman cut in: "This is a time unlike any we've ever lived through. The flag stands for our country's *beliefs*!" She then added: "And I'm a *pacifist*!"

After one woman almost broke down in tears, and another managed to evoke anti-abortion activists and Saddam Hussein in the same sentence, a board member couldn't take any more. "While we're being so honest, I'd just like to say frankly that I think it's *ridiculous* that we even had to *think* about this," she said. "This is not the White House, this is not the Capitol."

"It's not even the Kremlin!" shouted another member.

There was a round of exhausted applause, and the issue was left up to the board. ("I feel good," said Bauer, "My prediction is they will either have it up at holidays or not at all.") One resident who was not on hand was Susan Brownmiller, feminist author of *Against Our Will*. "As a political activist, I view the whole thing with amusement," she said. "Though I do think it's important to remember that the meeting was for shareholders only, when a good portion of us, like myself, are renters. That's some kind of democracy, no?"

Q&A Peter Brown, Paperback Writer

In 1962, Peter Brown's friend Brian Epstein asked him to help manage a local band. Within months, he was at the center of Beatlemania. Today he runs the P.R. firm Brown Lloyd James, and this week, his 1983 memoir, *The Love You Make,* written with Steven Gaines, comes back into print. CHRISTOPHER BONANOS

Why reissue the book now?

When the *Anthology* came out—the big coffee-table book—Neil Aspinall, who runs Apple, gave me a copy. And I'm reading George Harrison talking about when we were in the Philippines . . .

You were attacked for inadvertently snubbing Mrs. Marcos . . .

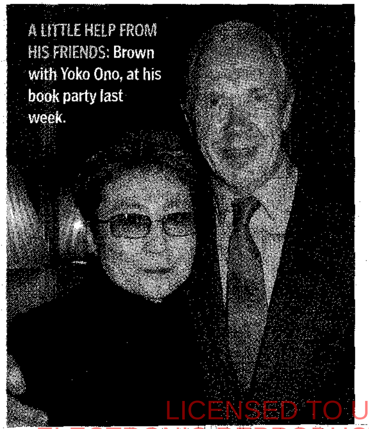
We were beaten up. And I'm thinking, *This is not how it happened.* So I called Neil and said, "The book's fabulous, but the chapter on the Philippines is wrong." And he said, "I know—but it's George's version. It's how he remembers it." Then I read a review in *Rolling Stone* that referred to other Beatle books and not mine. And I got pissed off.

Any corrections or new material in this edition?

No—I thought we'd leave well enough alone. If there was any criticism, it was, *Why did you have to be so frank?* Paul once said to me, "Why did you have to put in that I had VD in Hamburg?"

Do you still speak with Paul and Ringo?

I don't *not* talk to them. I see a lot of Yoko—she very cleverly adopts the attitude of "I've never read it." Which is fine by me. We're good friends—we're neighbors.

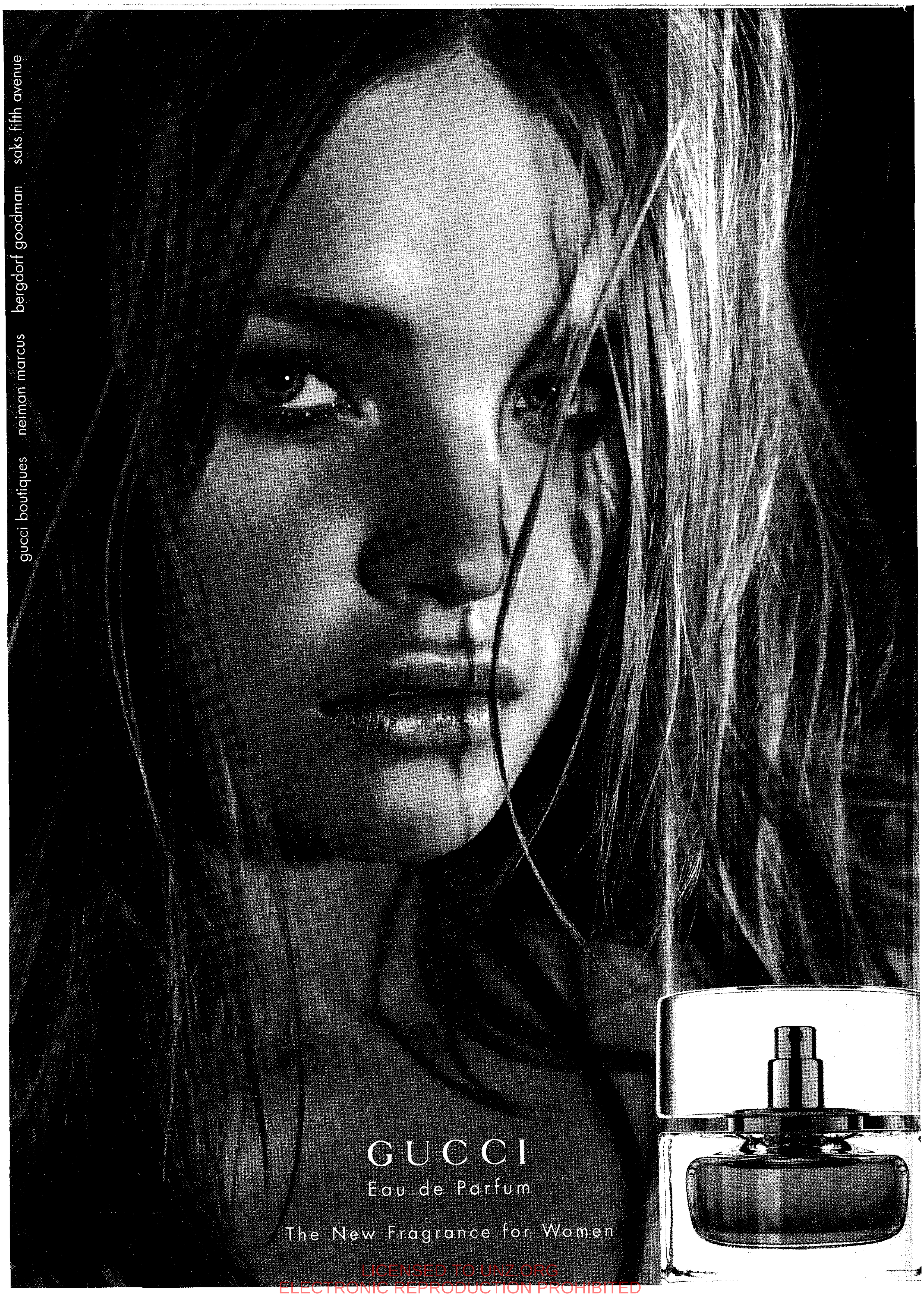


A LITTLE HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS: Brown with Yoko Ono, at his book party last week.

You live in the Dakota?

Next door. When John and Yoko first came to New York, they came to visit me, and John said to my doorman, "Is anything available?" And they said no, so he simply went to the next building, having no idea it was the Dakota. And there was a sublet.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE WAKSMAN. PHOTOGRAPH BY TINA PAUL.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Modern Love

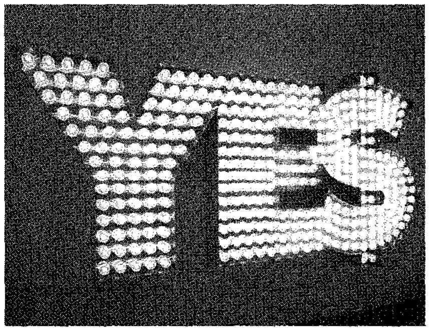
Prices didn't crash (as feared) at the contemporary-art auctions. But if Warhol's the new Picasso, who's the new Warhol? By Marion Maneker

As the bear market stumbles through its third year—and the real-estate bubble threatens to pop—at least one market is chugging along: contemporary art. Last week's auctions were more eagerly anticipated than 1999's Red Hat IPO—the *Wall Street Journal* even took a contrarian position by shorting the market, predicting a 10 to 15 percent drop in prices.

Much to the delight of the stone-faced dealers and women in fur-collared coats (despite the unseasonable warmth), prices held. Last Monday, Phillips disposed of nearly $25 million in art. On Tuesday, spectators piled six-deep in the back of Sotheby's football-field-size sale room, where mostly postwar works sold close to the low end of some aggressive estimates. "There's a magic number at the end of all this," teased auctioneer Tobias Meyer, coaxing the evening's prized de Kooning toward $12 million. "Let's try one more."

But on Wednesday, Christie's had a blowout, with record prices for a number of living artists. "They win!" cried an excited onlooker.

Contemporary sales approached the marquee Impressionist sales of the week before. "You're seeing a merging of price points between Impressionists, modern, and contemporary," said Laura Paulson, Sotheby's head of contemporary art. "The Impressionist market is not sexy," added Josh Baer of art newsletter *The Baer Faxt.*



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Tim Noble and Sue Webster's *Ye$*, summing up the mood.

"Who's the next Picasso?" asked Christie's Amy Cappellazzo, confident of the answer. "Warhol." Sure enough, Andy's *Big Electric Chair* went for $4.5 million. (If Warhol is the new Picasso, then Jeff Koons is the new Warhol.) Meanwhile, California's Wayne Thiebaud, once thought of as a "regional" artist, set a record at $2.8 million, more than a de Kooning went for. "When a market gets a bit hot, it pulls up artists like Thiebaud," said one aficionado. "For people with too much money, he's the anti-Warhol."

The contemporary market may be sexy, but it's not without risk—even when it comes to a Warhol. Art prices are always a function of scarcity, and Warhols have flooded the market (57 were on sale last week alone), especially his "Flowers" paintings. Problem is, no one knows how many more are still lurking out there. Warhol's catalogue raisonné hasn't covered that period yet. "When it comes out," says one auction official, "we'll all be in for a shock."

BEAUTY BEAT

A cutting-edge approach to baby-soft skin.

Just when we'd gotten used to smearing animal placenta on our faces, along comes TNS, a cream made from—brace yourself—baby foreskin. Jars of the stuff are flying off the shelves at plastic surgeons' and dermatologists' offices.

What does it (ostensibly) do? Tissue, cloned from a foreskin, has been made into a gel containing human-growth factors, which are said to stimulate collagen growth and elasticity. The cream "smells a little funky, but that goes away within seconds, and the skin feels firm and tighter," testifies Michele Sabino, an aesthetician who works with Manhattan plastic surgeons Gerald Imber and Robert Silich. A month's supply costs $130.

"Everybody wants to have skin like a baby," says Amy Colton, who markets the elixir. And as the only easily available baby skin, foreskin was an obvious source. But have no fear about a black market. "It's not from many little penises. Only one was cloned," explains Sabino. B.L.K.

Experts on marriage (and divorce) answer the question . . .

WHAT SORT OF PRENUPS SHOULD J.LO AND BEN GET?

Jackie Collins
"His-and-hers prenups: She promises to stay married for a year. He promises not to drink until she drives him insane with her flirting. Both include a 'No mention of P. Diddy' clause."

Raoul Felder, lawyer
"There are questions of career enhancement if the marriage lasts. They have to protect that mysterious something called celebrity status—the courts put a value on it, and you want that wiped out by a prenup."

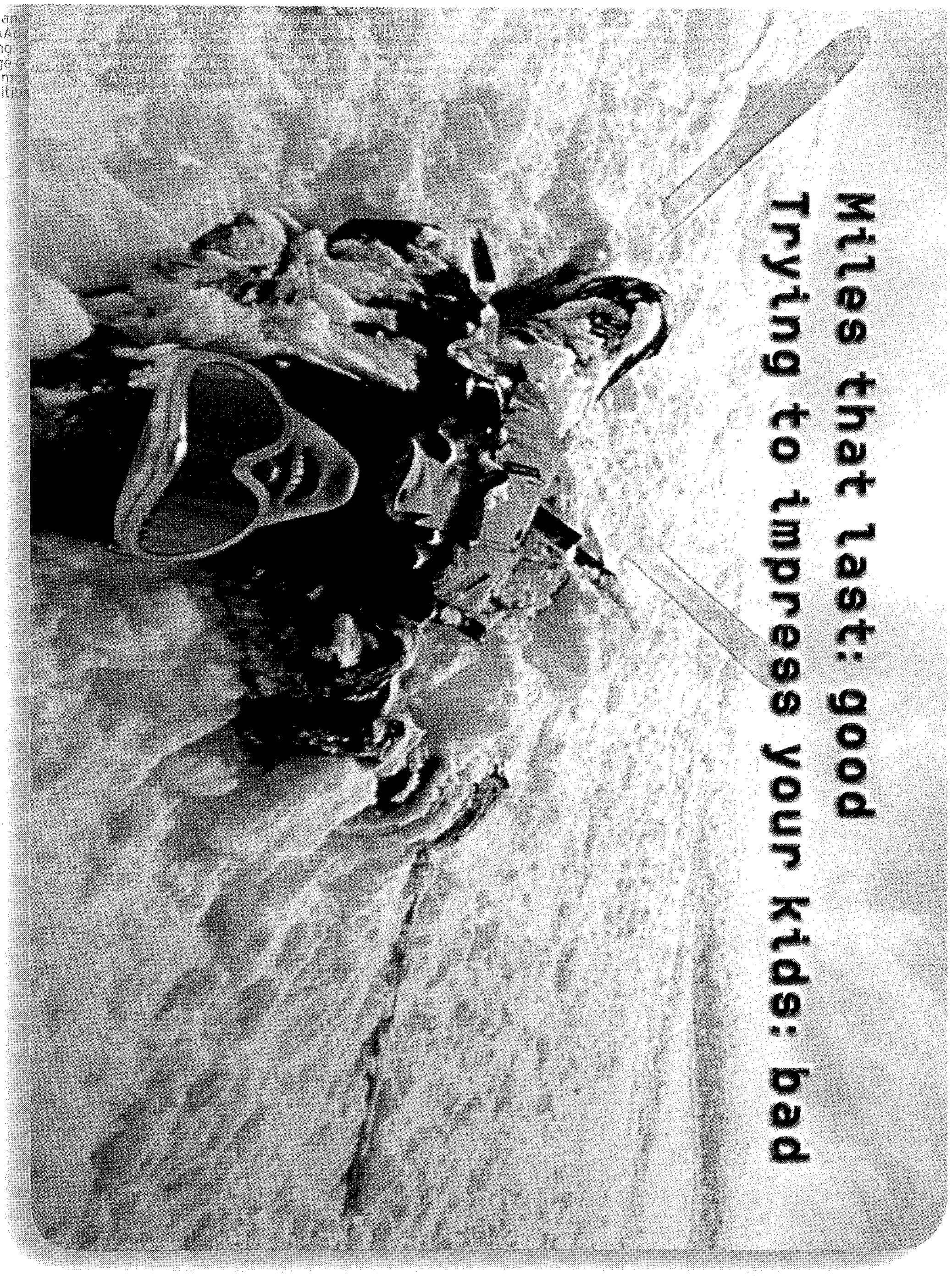
Judith Regan,
president, Regan Books
"I always wanted to have a prenup that said, 'You will love me forever, and if you don't, you die!' "

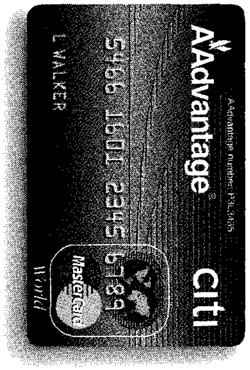
Donald Trump
"A prenup is an ugly instrument, but they'd better have one. If I didn't have mine, I would not own all these beautiful buildings."

Diane Johnson,
author, *Le Divorce*
"I'm not in favor of prenups. There's something about controlling your options that may make it easier to walk out, which isn't always the best solution."

Stanford Lotwin,
lawyer
"*Don't* get a sunset clause. Jack Welch had a prenup that protected him for ten years and then he got involved with a woman at the eleventh or twelfth year."

ILLUSTRATION BY BARBARA McGREGOR. PHOTOGRAPHS: TOP, CHRISTIE'S IMAGES; BOTTOM, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE; ANDREA RENAULT/GLOBE PHOTOS; SONIA MOSKOWITZ/GLOBE PHOTOS; JOHN KRONDES/GLOBE PHOTOS; STEVEN ELLISON/CORBIS OUTLINE.


Miles that last: good
Trying to impress your kids: bad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Michael Wolff THIS MEDIA LIFE

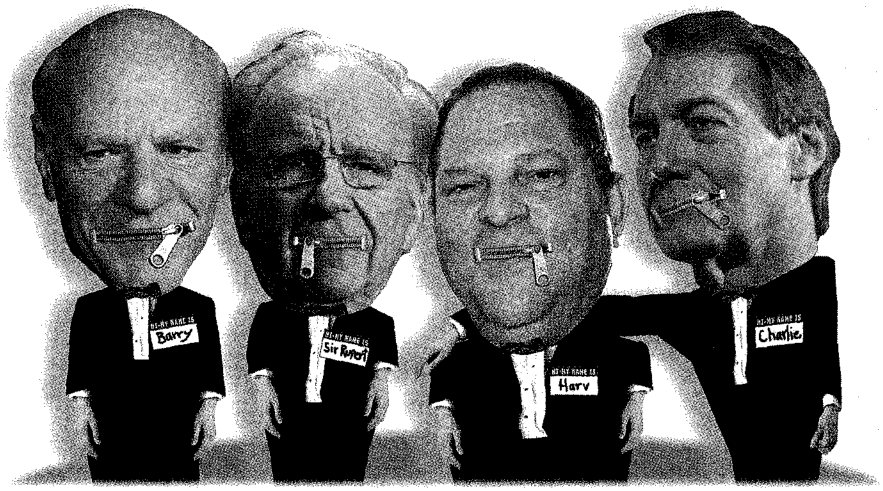
Say Nothing

Thanks to a gag order, I'm not allowed to tell you what the greatest media minds of our times have to say. (But here's a hint: Even though it's the end of the world as we know it, they feel fine!)

I'VE BEEN BUSY ATTENDING A MOGUL CONFERence that I'm not allowed to write about. Or, as I understand it, I may reference the conference but not quote anyone who attended it or spoke at it.

Still, I believe I can fairly discuss the mogul participants—a top-drawer group including Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdoch, Barry Diller, Steve Case, Michael Powell, Sir Howard Stringer, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., Harvey Weinstein, and the Robertses, father and son—who are identified on the conference's Website. And as one of the official mogul interlocutors, I can, I suppose, quote myself.

Also, I would argue that within the established guidelines, I can discuss what was *not* said, and even attribute what wasn't said to who should have said it.



THE SOUND OF SILENCE: Diller, Murdoch, Weinstein, and Rose.

The three-day, $4,400 conference, called Foursquare, was produced by the Quadrangle Group and held at the grand ballroom of the Regent Hotel on Wall Street. Quadrangle is an investment fund specializing in media properties, run by Steven Rattner, who, through much of the nineties at Lazard Frères, was one of the best-known bankers in the media business (before that, he was a New York *Times* reporter; a big part of his portfolio is a close friendship with *Times* chairman Sulzberger). Rattner, also a major Democratic Party supporter who had been on the short-list for a Cabinet post in a Gore administration (while the conference proceeded, the Democrats were again being defeated), put together his media fund just as the media business was crashing. Assuming the crash has not yet finished, throwing a conference in the meantime might not be a bad way to wait for the bottom (like Herb Allen's Sun Valley gathering, it's a brand-building thing).

The conference was directed by John Battelle, who ran the now-defunct Internet-business magazine *The Industry Standard*, and John Heilemann, a business and political journalist. Battelle and Heilemann recruited their journalist friends—Ken Auletta, Charlie Rose, Kurt Andersen, Forrest Sawyer, and me among them—to conduct public (well, private public) discussions with the moguls and other big shots.

Why we would do this—with the conference being off the record and without a scintilla of remuneration (we were not even proffered the conference swag bag)—is not exactly clear. Except, of course, that we all crave acceptance and proximity—and what's more, do not want it to appear that we were not invited.

IT WAS, LIKEWISE, HARD TO FIGURE OUT what drew everybody else here. After all, *nobody* is going to conferences anymore. Conferences—people paying lots of money to go to a rarefied setting where they can meet people who are better than they are—are part of the ever-receding boom culture.

And yet nearly every significant media personage turned out. There were even reports that several hundred tickets had actually been sold at full price.

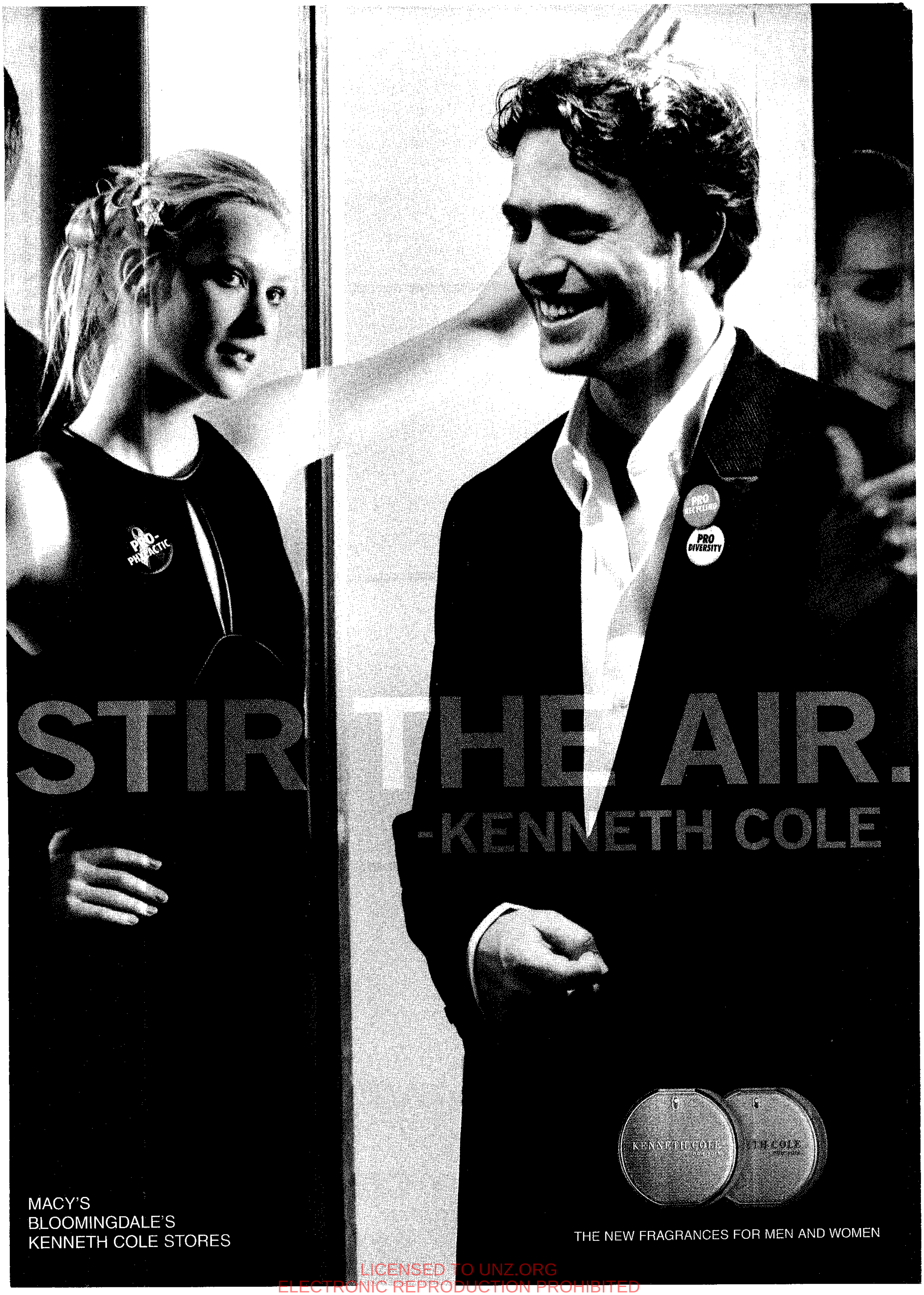
The attendees were a variety of last-men-standing in their respective businesses, together with a small group of alumni from the conferences of the nineties—rather like the remaining members of, say, the class of '34 at an Ivy League reunion—and, most prevalent, many anonymous Wall Street types.

It was the facelessness and unresponsiveness and steadfastness of this last group that provided an unexpected "What, me worry?" vibe: Nobody seemed angry, or out of sorts, or eager to lay blame. Sangfroid ruled.

Judging by this genial complacency, you might even have reasonably concluded that the media business was a pretty healthy one.

The opposite, and hardly extreme, position—that the U.S. media business is in about the same fix as the Japanese banking system—was not at all part of the discussion. This wasn't, of course, surprising or illogical: If there was such a crisis, then the people here—both on the stage and in the audience—would have been the people who created it. It was therefore not likely

ILLUSTRATION BY LOU BEACH. PHOTOGRAPHS: FROM LEFT, VINCE BUCCI/GETTY IMAGES; SPENCER PLATT/NEWSMAKERS; JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM; MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES.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that they would now be confessing guilt, or proposing radical overthrow.

There was really hardly any need for a gag order—everyone was mum, or saccharine.

CHARLIE ROSE INTERVIEWED FORMER MEDIA mogul Mayor Bloomberg, who was in fine and convivial form—possibly relieved to no longer have to talk about the media business (the city budget crisis notwithstanding).

The New Yorker's Ken Auletta politely and damningly interviewed a stubbornly unflappable Steve Case. This is what the AOL Time Warner chairman did *not* say: He did not say what he does with his day; he did not say whether he thought he bore any singular responsibility for what has happened at AOL Time Warner; he did not say why he should still have a job; he did not say why AOL can't deliver e-mail in a timely way.

Maybe this was a new philosophy in the media world: **The smartest thing was not to be a big thinker anymore,** not to be a visionary. *They* were the ones who got us into trouble. Don't blame us.

John Doerr, the venture capitalist, and James Barksdale, the former CEO of Netscape, did not say whether they believed the failure of the Internet impacted on their self-worth.

Michael Wolf ("the other"), a media-business consultant at McKinsey & Company, who irks me to no end because he wrote a vacuous and ass-kissing book about the entertainment economy that I am frequently credited—or discredited—with writing, interviewed FCC chairman Michael Powell (getting to interview Powell was a perk of McKinsey's being one of the conference's paying sponsors). Chairman Powell, looking especially inflated and self-satisfied, managed to avoid discussing the sense or reasonableness or economic efficacy of a generation of massive consolidation in the media and communications business.

The panel on advertising did not ask what happens to the media business if, as almost everyone expects, consumer advertising continues an inexorable process of reaching a dwindling number of people, for more and more money, and effecting the sale of fewer and fewer goods.

The panel on piracy did not address what will happen if people don't stop pirating—as now seems the more reasonable scenario than either lawsuits stopping them or everybody's children at the conference suddenly starting to pay their parents' companies for what they've been downloading free.

The panel on news (with Sulzberger, CNN chairman Walter Isaacson, *Wall Street Journal* publisher Karen Elliot House, and NBC president Andy Lack) did not talk about what happens if the news audience keeps getting ever older and if, as now seems likely, younger people never develop an interest in news as a part of their daily information routine.

Barry Diller, coy and charming, did not outline his plot to take over Vivendi's American enterprises or say if he thought Jean-Marie Messier was one of the great knuckleheads of the age.

I had my own failures at prompting any public introspection or expiation. I moderated a panel called "The Burdens of Scale" with AOL Time Warner's Jeff Bewkes, News Corp.'s Peter Chernin, and Yahoo!'s Terry Semel, and tried to suggest that there probably wasn't that much difference between, say, Messier, Jerry Levin, Bob Pittman, Thomas Middelhoff, and most other seemingly successful media executives. But nobody fell on his sword. Now, possibly, it was pure obliviousness that was being articulated here. But then again, maybe it was a new philosophy in the media world: The smartest thing was not to be a big thinker anymore, not to be a visionary. *They* were the ones who got us into trouble. Whereas now we're just taking it one day at a time. So don't blame us.

Then, after the panel, I interviewed Murdoch, beamed in by satellite from London, and while I did ask the big figure on the screen above the Regent Ballroom how it felt to have held power in America longer than anyone else in our era (vastly longer than any other politician or business figure), I failed to ask him the more pertinent post-election question: Did he feel that Fox News deserved credit for the Republican victory (which, clearly, it does)?

We're the Fox Nation, making Murdoch, with a little critical interpretation, our leader.

THE MAIN CONFERENCE DINNER AT THE MUseum of the American Indian was an awkward situation because the relative hoi polloi of the event (including many people who, I suppose, paid the full $4,400) were

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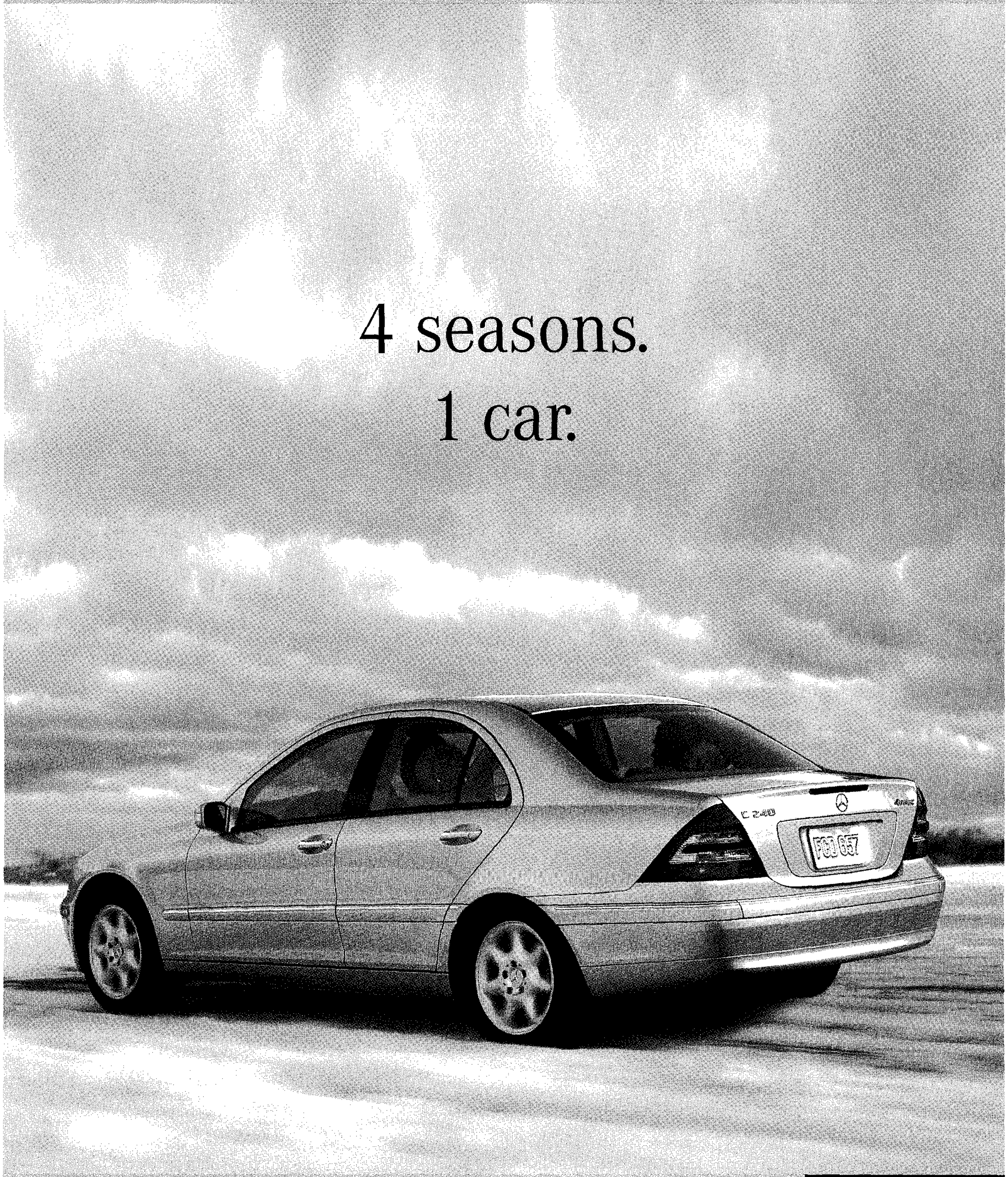

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led one way, and a more exalted 50 or so (few of whom, I suspect, were paying anything) were led another.

I chose not to question too closely why I was included in the latter group—in fact, I began to think this was my ascension moment (I'd assumed all the interlocutors were invited, but as I walked toward the dining room with *Newsweek*'s Steven Levy, who had moderated a technology panel, he was suddenly intercepted and led away by formidable factotums). Here I was, for whatever reason, elevated from the peanut gallery to the skyboxes of the Establishment, suddenly cheek-by-jowl with at least half a dozen people I'd written about more or less intemperately (I'd quote the impish zinger Barry Diller aimed at me if I were allowed). *It's a great country,* I couldn't help thinking, Fox or not.

The dinner, hosted by Rattner and Sulzberger in an extraordinary room of wood carvings and inlays, gathered together a choice-enough crowd that a flash fire would have profoundly altered the course of the American media business.

There were seven or eight tables, each with six men and one woman, with everyone served a very big piece of meat.

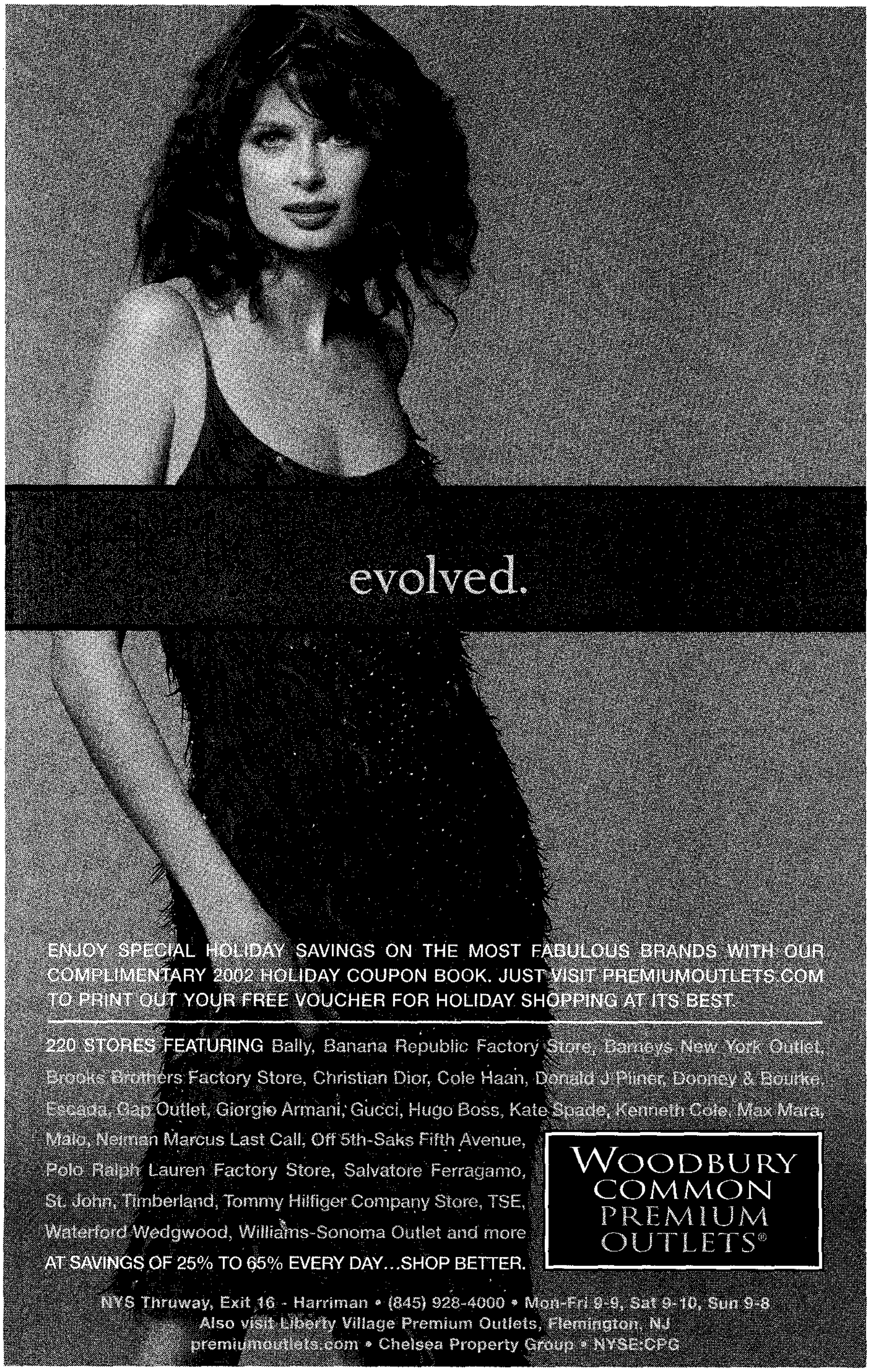
The deal was that at each table, we were supposed to discuss the future of the business (topics provided) and, once again, try to answer that hoary question: *What's the next big thing?* Then, over dessert, Charlie Rose would lead us in a Socratic inquiry.

Everybody was very earnest. It was like a book-club meeting or a really painful wedding. I wasn't any less self-serious, finding myself suddenly, helplessly, from some deep wellspring of social animus and faux pas–ism, telling these people that the next big thing was that we would all soon find out how unhappy everybody is in the media business. That nobody can enjoy or get satisfaction from working in an uncertain colossus. That there is a dark and growing rage in the ranks. That while we partied, the media business was rebelling from within. It would be pulled apart by a bigness-induced psychosis, as well as by the ever-growing pressure and sure futility of the search for the next big thing.

For a moment, I thought to myself, *You've really done it now*—Charlie looked at me with some concern. But the truth, I think, is that everybody was so relieved to be here (Martha was a no-show, and Jean-Marie Messier, one of the early conference headliners, had, I assumed, discreetly sent his regrets), to *still* be able to be here, that they seemed willing to overlook my bad manners as well as the sorry state of our world.

I could be invited back, even. ■

E-mail: michael@burnrate.com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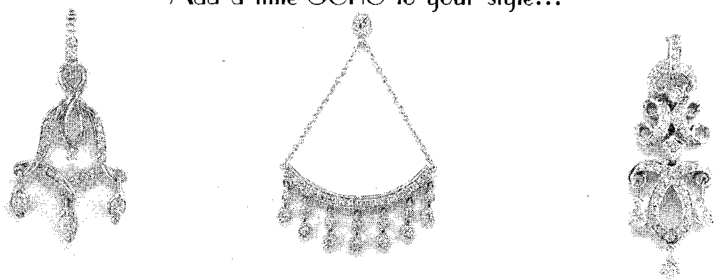
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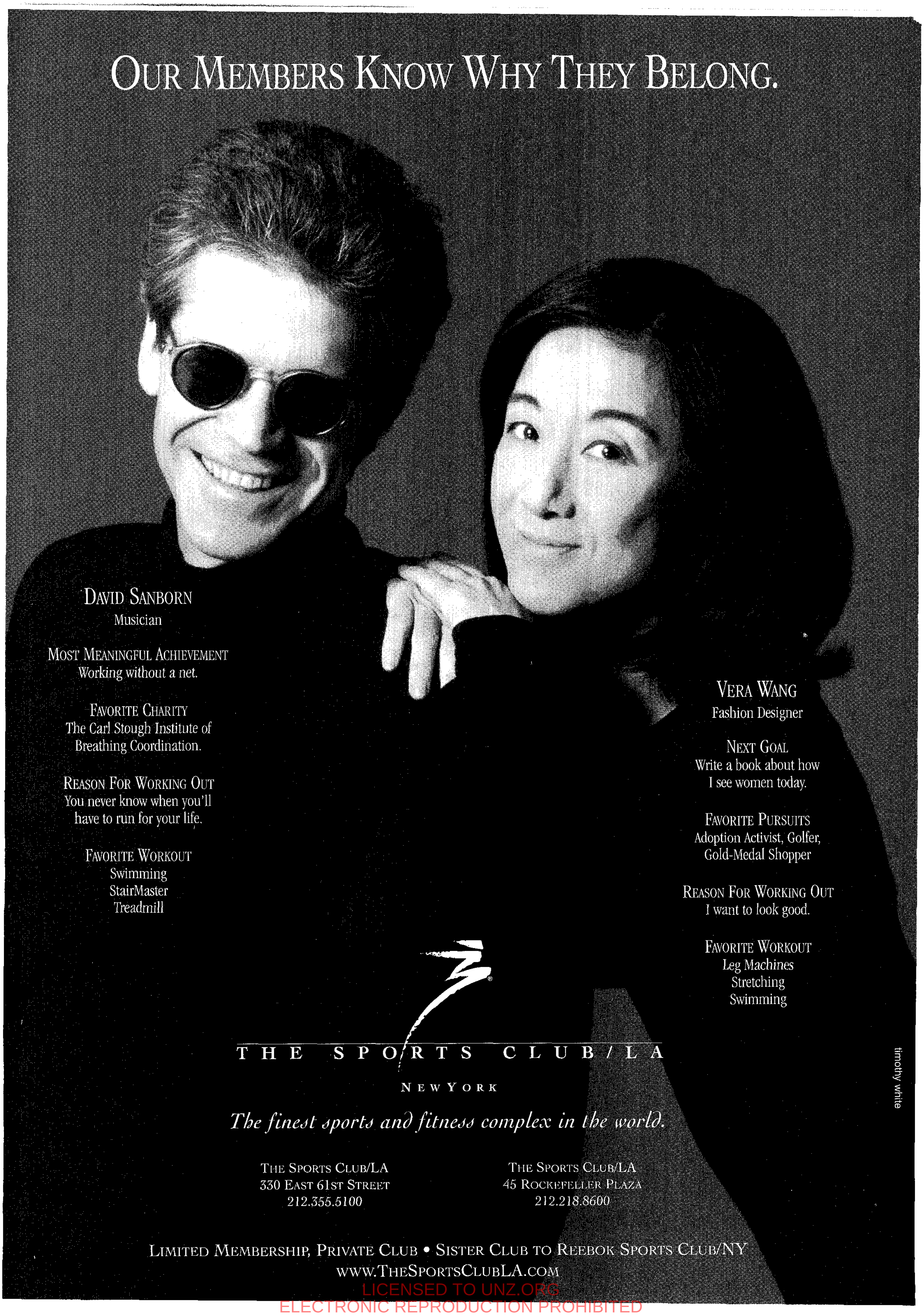

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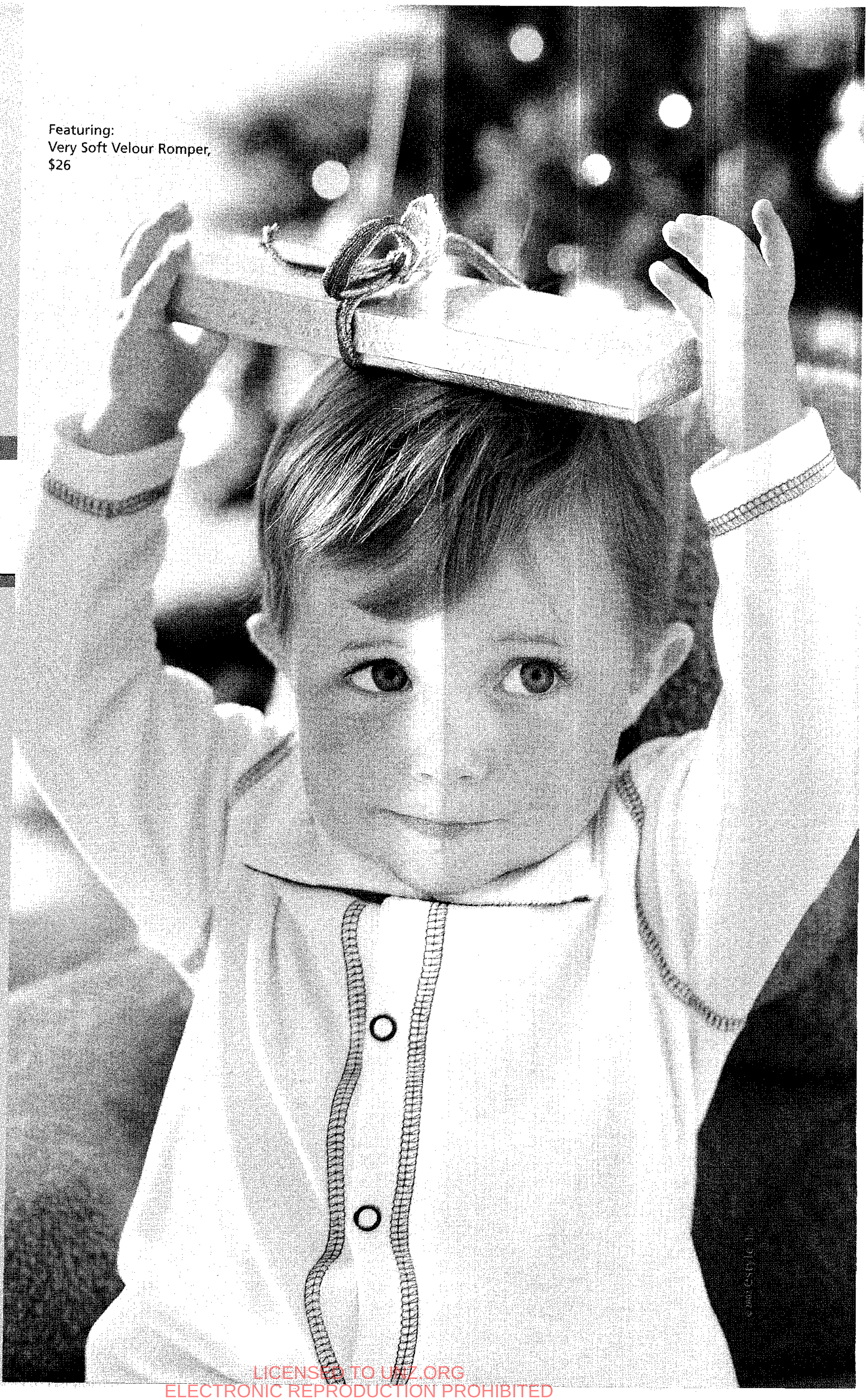

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James J. Cramer THE BOTTOM LINE

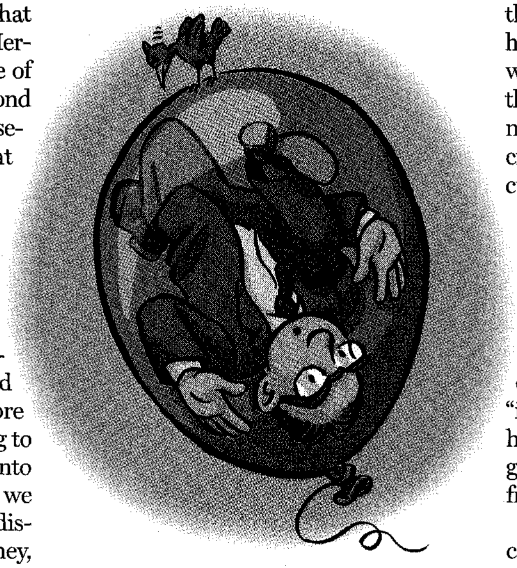
Bubble Boys

The press has us convinced that every Wall Street analyst is corrupt. Okay, yeah, some are. But the truth is, the most exuberant of the stock boosters were merely incompetent.

THE CASE AGAINST WALL STREET'S ANALYSTS seems so easy to make. We have e-mails from analysts to corporate-finance bankers joking about having to recommend pure crap in order to get big bonuses. We have e-mails from analysts pleading with banks to be able to downgrade horrid stocks simultaneous with the release of positive recommendations of those same stocks. We have damning correspondence that shows that buy recommendations were for sale at Merrill Lynch and First Boston for the price of follow-on business, a secondary here, a bond deal there. Heck, these e-mails are a prosecutor's dream; a first-year law student could find these clowns guilty of fraud.

But before we convict the whole analyst industry and send it to Sing Sing, someone in the prosecution's got some explaining to do. How is it that while there are many documented instances of analysts' being pressured to stay positive long after the stock bubble turned into a fiery zeppelin, there were far more totally independent analysts still willing to hop onto the balloon as it disintegrated into the proverbial Lakehurst grave? While we all know that Jack Grubman, the now-disgraced telco analyst late of Smith Barney, loved WorldCom literally to death, what was the excuse of the dozen analysts who got no investment-banking business but loved this giant scam anyway? These WorldCom acolytes had *nothing* to gain for their recommendations, because WorldCom did most of its banking with Smith Barney. Yet they banged the drum, in some cases even more ferociously than Grubman.

And WorldCom isn't anomalous. Wall Street analysts routinely recommended stocks that eighteen months later would fizzle or go bankrupt, and received absolutely no extra recompense for doing so. They simply blew it. As Eliot Spitzer pointed out last week in his deconstruction of *Institutional Investor's* All-America Research Team Awards, even the so-called stars usually got it wrong.



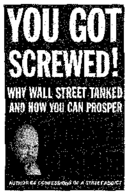
While there was corruption behind some of these buy recommendations, I think stupidity played a much bigger role. Either they thought that stocks would keep rising and they didn't want to rock the boat or they genuinely believed in the promise of the New Economy.

As someone who has spent his career trying to discern which stocks are going to go up and which ones are slated to go down, I can tell you that the process is harder than it seems (despite what everyone presumed during the bubble). At Cramer Berkowitz, the hedge fund I've since retired from, I interviewed dozens of people a year who insisted that they could pick winning stocks. As a ritual, I would ask them to pick some for me. But in a dozen years of trying to find talented stock pickers from the sell side, I found only two who could demonstrate the ability to pick stocks right. I passed on hundreds who simply couldn't pick stocks to save their lives. And that was in a bull market! It's just simply a very difficult process that most can't get right, even when they have the potential to make far more money working on the buy side, at a hedge fund, than they could kowtowing to their investment-banking masters in order to get lucrative bonuses—the essence of the prosecutors' case against the research analysts.

To be sure, that doesn't mean the current scheme is corruption-free. In the late nineties, when you brought your company public, you pretty much were buying a positive research report to be issued, like clockwork, 30 days after your company came out of the chute. These "initiate buys" fooled no one except the hapless public, which didn't know how the game worked. Why get in the way of a freight train in the name of principle?

Now let's make things even more complicated. Wall Street's no monolith. Some firms apparently had very weak controls and coerced analysts into upgrading stocks that belonged in the dog pound. Those who balked were fired, and more compliant people were brought in. But other firms, notably Morgan Stanley, pressured no one and even took the incredibly unusual posture of downgrading some of the most lucrative clients out there. The decision by Morgan Stanley telco analyst Simon Flannery to take Qwest to a sell at a time when Qwest would have loved to do business with Morgan Stanley distinguished that firm as honest in my eyes. To make matters even more black and white, Morgan Stanley had no Enron analyst at a time when Enron was doling out millions in investment-banking fees to any firm that touted its securities. Even Morgan Stanley's Mary

THE *NEW YORK* BOOKSHELF



TheStreet.com co-founder James J. Cramer's latest book, *You Got Screwed! Why Wall Street Tanked and How You Can Prosper* (Simon & Schuster; $20), is now available at bookstores everywhere.

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPH NIEMANN.

Meeker, the analyst who is claimed to be among the more ethically challenged for her buy recommendations of dubious dot-coms, did the most rigorous work and was far less enthusiastic than her dot-com-analyst compadres in the end.

Still other firms, such as Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers, and Bear Stearns, plied their allegedly corrupt research only to wealthy people, who the government has long held do not need the special protections others in the marketplace are afforded. Why should these firms be held to the enforcement standard meant for those who sold stock to the great unwashed masses of investors? If the rich lose money, to paraphrase Lenin, isn't it their own darned fault?

> Of course, Smith Barney's Jack Grubman **loved WorldCom literally to death**, but what was the excuse of the dozen analysts who got no investment-banking business **but loved this giant scam anyway?**

OF COURSE, THE CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS don't even begin to take into account so many of the other pressures on analysts: They are always loath to downgrade the stocks owned by the big mutual funds that pay the commission bills. They are also desperate not to alienate those who have bought the stocks on their recommendations, even if the companies behind the stocks start disappointing. Better to let the companies disappoint the clients than disappoint them yourself.

No matter. We are now in the massive-recrimination stage, and these niceties—patient consideration of extenuating circumstances—have no place in the process. Given that no firm had totally clean hands or heads during the boom, we can expect that the government's piper has to be paid. I just hope there's someone at the table for the brokers arguing, "Call us stupid, call us dumb, but don't call all of us corrupt."

That's the position, in this murky moment for Wall Street, that has the most truth on its side. ■

James J. Cramer is co-founder of TheStreet. com. At the time of publication, he owned stock in Qwest and Citigroup. He often buys and sells securities that are the subject of his columns and articles, both before and after they are published, and the positions he takes may change at any time. *E-mail: jjcletters@thestreet.com*

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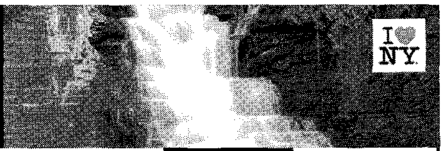
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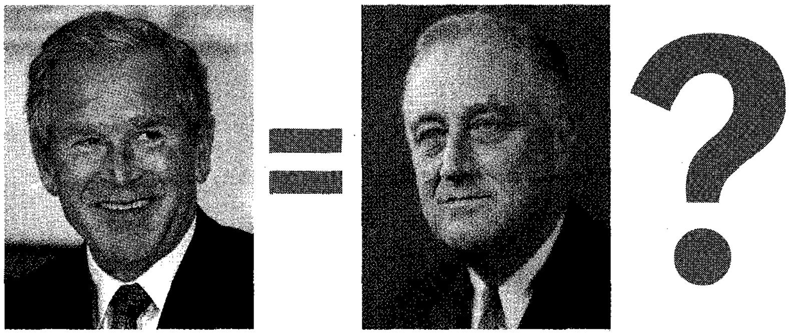
Michael Tomasky THE CITY POLITIC

The New New Deal

After years of fumbling, Republicans have finally found an effective delivery system for their agenda, raising the question: Could W.'s era have as enduring a political impact as FDR's?

IN ROUND ONE OF THE MELANCHOLY PARLOR game fashionable in Democratic circles these days, everyone simply tried to make sense of the election's mechanics: What happened? How many points did George W. Bush give all those Senate candidates? How on earth did Georgia Democratic governor Roy Barnes, ahead by double digits in the polls virtually down to the two-minute warning, end up losing?

Round two, which got wind in its sails last week and will continue at least until the Democrats win an election someday, is the Bigthink Round: What does it mean? Was this election a tremor, a blip, a temporary crisis forged of unique circumstances out of which good can eventually come? Or was this a 1934-style earthquake, a marker of what our politics might look like for the next 40 years, just as that election signaled a reign of liberal New Deal politics even through Republican administrations?


SPHERES OF INFLUENCE: Bush may not have to pull us out of a Depression to cast an FDR-like shadow over the political world long after he's gone.

Many of the Democrats I've posed this question to lately—pols, operatives, writers—want to believe the former but secretly fear the latter. In some respects, this is characterological more than ideological. Liberals tend to assume the worst, and some percentage of the current despondency is a sort of comedy act: Moaning about how grim it all looks for our side has been liberal shtick for years.

In reality, things might not be so bad. Exhibit A in the case for tremor is that *Times* op-ed piece last Tuesday by Donald Green and Eric Schickler, a reasonably persuasive argument that nothing about this election changed the way people fundamentally see the parties, but that the issues that were important on Election Day—war, security—were Republican issues. This view is supported by no less an authority than Arthur Schlesinger Jr., who once wrote nearly 2,000 pages of excellent history about that last earthquake (the New Deal) and who told me last week: "No, this isn't a realignment. Shift a few thousand votes here or there, and the Democrats still control the Senate."

Well, true. And it's also true that on most of the leading issues, a majority supports the Democratic position. That, in a nutshell, is the tremor argument, along with the belief, or more accurately the hope, that the "issues palette," as the pollsters say, will revert to matters more favorable to Democrats.

BUT IF ALL THESE THINGS ARE TRUE, WHY does it feel bigger than that?

Because the Republicans, after twenty years of pushing the national conversation toward the right but never fully taking control of it, have finally and firmly landed on a formula.

What is it? It's best explained in dialectical terms. Ronald Reagan, the man with whom this history of conservatism's rise begins, was thesis: optimistic, principled in his way, but not rigid—ultimately a flexible man who believed in the old idea of politics as a gentleman's vocation. He was willing to fulminate in the afternoon in public but have a scotch with Tip O'Neill in the evening to trade Irishisms and hash things out in a reasonable way.

Newt Gingrich was antithesis: dark, martial, visionary, a loon, a believer that politics is war by other means, someone who was bound to push hard and flame out.

W., and Karl Rove, and the rising generation of Republican politicians and operatives, are synthesis: They, especially Bush himself, have Reagan's uncomplicated, cheery nature. *And* they have Gingrich's ideological tenacity. Contemplate that for a minute: Gingrich's agenda and Reagan's disposition. And that's the formula.

This was the story in Georgia. The Republicans had likable candidates for Senate and governor, and both ran deeply ugly campaigns. Saxby Chambliss upset Max Cleland in the Senate race with madness, accusing a Vietnam-era triple amputee of being soft on defense. But in addition to that, Chambliss benefited from something having to do with the governor's race that the polls never picked up. Barnes lost for a variety of reasons, but his defeat—not the most important contest in the country, but probably the election's single most surprising result—happened mainly because of massive white turnout in the state's rural areas.

What brought them out? Talk of Barnes's being the "governor of Atlanta" and not of the suburbs or the rest of the state, and a controversy over the Confederate emblem on the state flag. Last year, Barnes reduced

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the size of the Stars and Bars on the flag. GOP candidate Sonny Perdue promised to let voters decide whether the state should return to the old flag. In other words, it was about race, but it was mostly implied and subtextual. And it was all engineered by Ralph Reed (yes, *that* Ralph Reed), now the GOP chairman of Georgia, who wrote with dripping contrition six years ago in his book *Active Faith* that "when it came to racism . . . conservative evangelicals . . . were not only on the sidelines, but on the wrong side of the most central cause of social justice in this century." Reed went on at length in that book about how Christian conservatives had a moral duty to reach out and touch African-Americans. He just didn't say the touch would be a mugging.

The lesson of Georgia is that Republicans know how to work the formula. Ditto Minnesota, where the fervor of the Wellstone memorial was exploited with cynical brilliance by the GOP, whose candidate all but called Wellstone a traitor before his death and then put on a lovely act of piety after it.

The Republicans are in complete control of the emotional terrain of politics (as well as, of course, having more money, stronger supporting institutions, and their own "news" network for message dissemination). The Democrats chase them around like a bunch of bumbling Clouseaus. That's why it feels like this election might portend bigger things. The gaps—in imagination, organization, desire—are huge, and growing. Until Democrats narrow them, the fact that poll respondents prefer the Democratic position on this or that issue won't mean a lot.

THE DEMOCRATS COULD GET SOME BREAKS. The economy may falter. That, probably, is the GOP's Achilles' heel; as I like to say, the difference between the two parties is that while the Democrats are sometimes compromised in their principles because of corporate contributions, the Republicans are never compromised, because helping those contributors *is* the principle. The war, assuming it starts, could bog down or make things worse in the Gulf, although we don't really want to cheer for those things to happen. The issues palette could change back to Social Security and so forth.

When you talk to Democrats, these are the kinds of things they say. But look back over the list. It's all passivity—waiting for something to happen, for Bush to make a mistake, for the *Times* to uncover a scandal. The Democrats need to *make* something happen. If not, they might be watching from the wings for a long time to come. ■

E-mail: tomasky@aol.com. Michael Tomasky's columns can be read online at nymetro.com/archive/tomasky.

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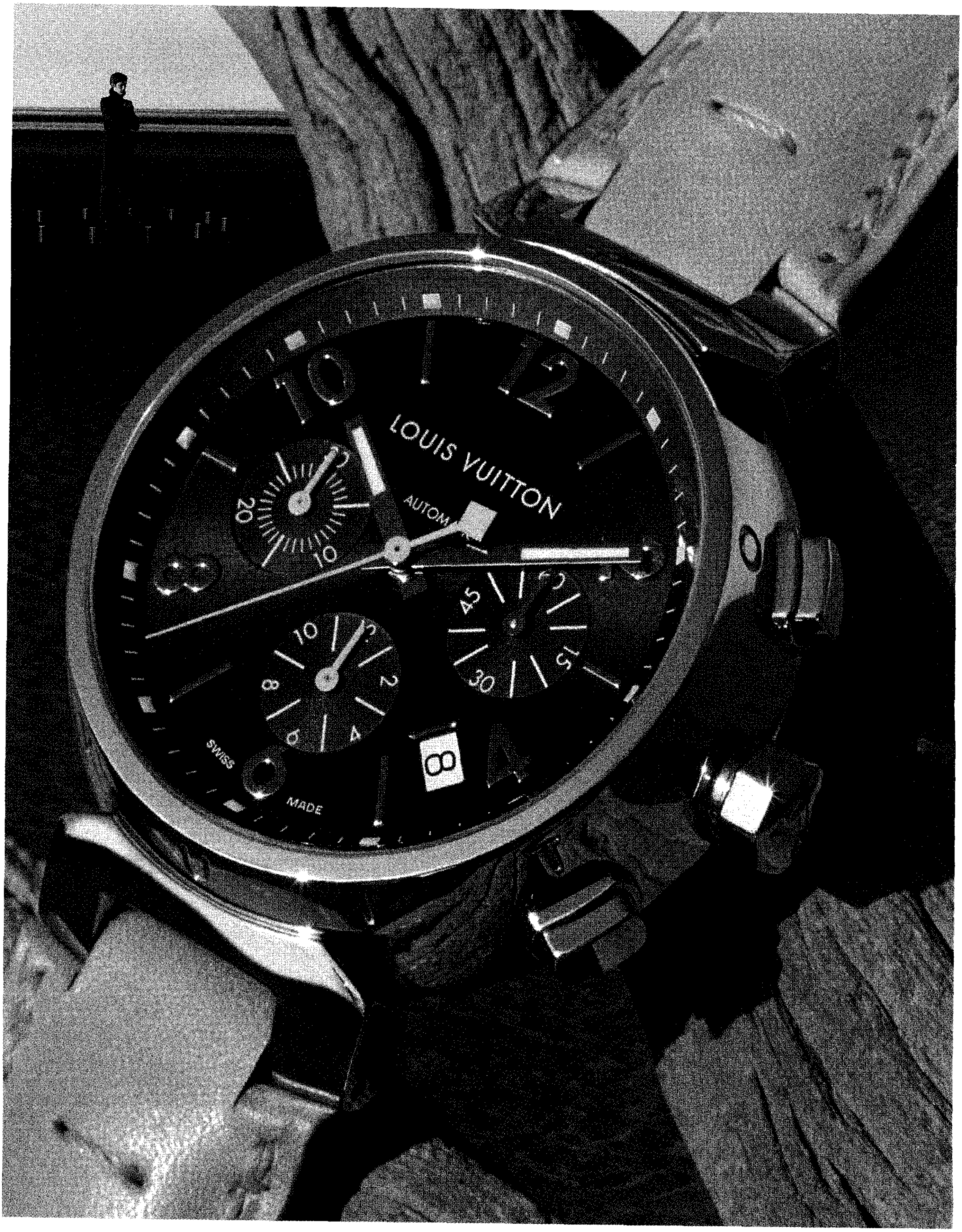
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2002

Shopping (along with too much family, too many Christmas carols, and too much holiday cheer) is one of the reasons why the season that is—don't look now—almost upon us is stressful. We set out to make it easier by checking out all the newest stuff, from electronic gadgets to sporting gear, with a pit stop along the way for cool boxes of chocolates. We tell you what's best, why—and *who* each of our favorites is best *for*. To help with the kids (and, okay, for comic relief), we asked 39 of them, from 3 to 12, what they really wanted (in case yours haven't already placed an order). And in case the Next Big Thing isn't your style, we matched classic gifts to every imaginable person. Your holiday shopping is just about in the bag—if not the wrapping paper.

By Shyama Patel
and Rima Suqi

Produced by Armin Harris
Assistants: Aja Mangum,
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ELECTRONICS *High-tech toys, from the miniest MP3 to the mightiest plasma TV.*

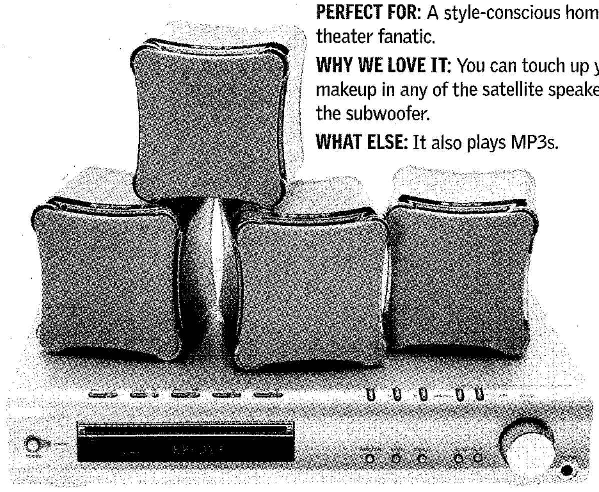
SONY DAV-C770 DVD DREAM SYSTEM, $600 through Sony VIP services (877-217-SONY).

WHAT: A Digital Cinema Sound–Dolby Digital audiovisual system with a five-disc DVD-SACD-CD changer.

PERFECT FOR: A style-conscious home-theater fanatic.

WHY WE LOVE IT: You can touch up your makeup in any of the satellite speakers or the subwoofer.

WHAT ELSE: It also plays MP3s.



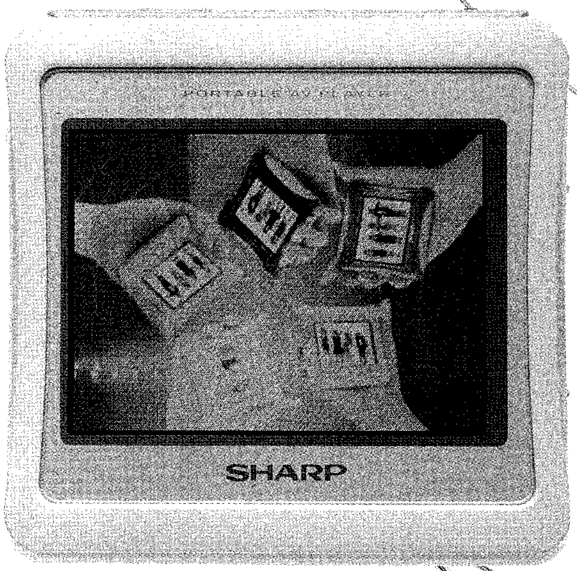
SHARP AV-1 MULTIMEDIA PLAYER, on sale for $350 at TKNY.

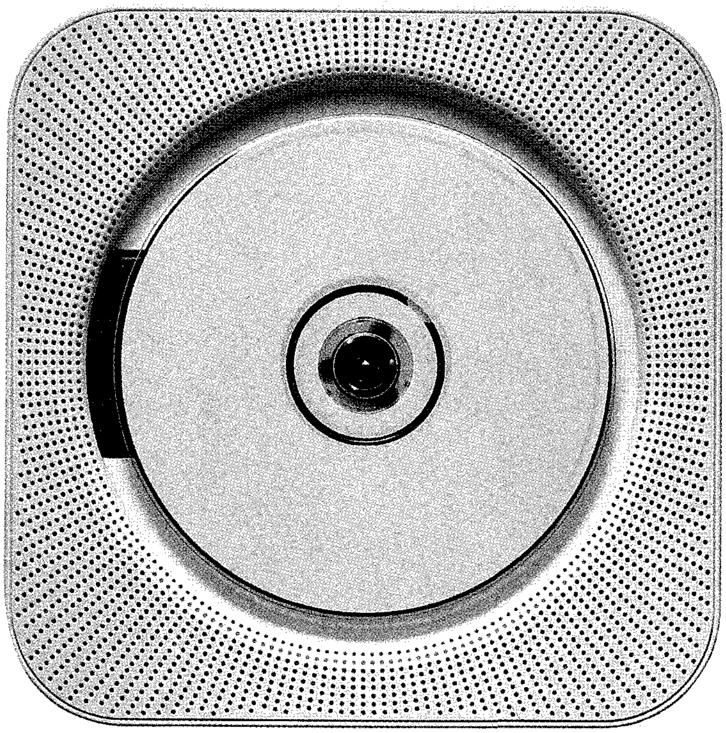
WHAT: An MP3 player that also plays video (up to one hour's worth).

PERFECT FOR: A bored commuter who's already mastered her Game Boy.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's perfect for taking a couple of episodes of *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (downloaded from your VCR) on the road.

WHAT ELSE: Taking a cue from Nokia cell phones, Sharp included a replaceable snap-on front cover that comes in ten colors and patterns.



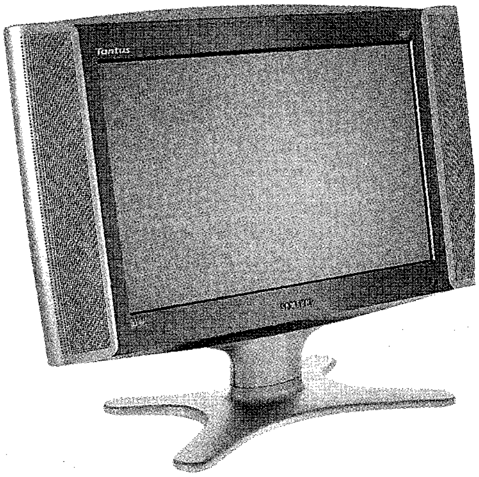


MUJI CD-1 WALL-HOOKABLE CD PLAYER, $152 at TKNY.

WHAT: An adorable wall-mountable CD player with built-in stereo speakers.

PERFECT FOR: A space-challenged music lover.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The open-air design turns any CD into spin art.



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PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANTONIS ACHILLEOS

SONY DCR-IP55 MICROMV DIGITAL HANDYCAM, $1,200 at B&H.

WHAT: A MicroMV camcorder (it uses Sony-exclusive tapes that are even smaller than DV cassettes) with a ten-times optical zoom, a Carl Zeiss lens, and a 2.5-inch LCD screen.

PERFECT FOR: A size-conscious Spielberg.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The fold-down grip gives it Super-8-era retro appeal.

WHAT ELSE: The 2.5-inch Touch Panel LCD screen lets you control the camcorder through an intuitively designed on-screen menu.

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JVC
200x

⬇ SONY KZ-32TS2 32-INCH PLASMA WEGA, $5,000

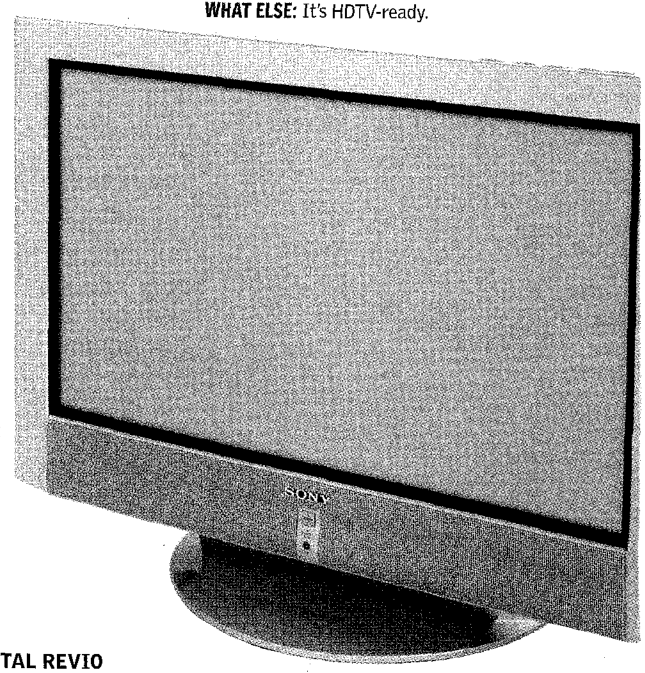
through Sony VIP services (877-217-SONY) and at Harvey Electronics.

WHAT: A 32-inch plasma TV that you can hang on a wall like a picture frame.

PERFECT FOR: Anybody in the known universe (who doesn't want one of these babies?).

WHY WE LOVE IT: Hello? Just look at it.

WHAT ELSE: It's HDTV-ready.



⬆ JVC DIGITAL VIDEOCAMERA GR-DVP7, $970 at B&H.

WHAT: A PC/Mac-compatible Mini DV camcorder with a ten-times optical zoom, a 1.02-megapixel CCD, a two-inch LCD flip-out screen, and USB and Firewire ports.

PERFECT FOR: Anybody who wants digital video on the go in a sleek package that weighs less than a pound (battery pack included!).

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's so small!

WHAT ELSE: You can save snapshots to removable memory cards.

Konica
ZOOM HEXANON
f=8-24mm 1:2.8-4.9
Digital Revio
KD-400Z

⬅ KONICA DIGITAL REVIO KD-400Z CAMERA, $450 at B&H and J&R.

WHAT: A 4.0-megapixel, 3x optical-zoom point-and-shoot beauty with a sexy, stainless-steel body.

PERFECT FOR: A digital-photography fan who wants to trade up from a one-, two- or three-megapixel model without adding bulk.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's as small and light (6.5 ounces) as the popular Canon PowerShot Digital Elphs, but has an extra megapixel of memory. Plus, you can take up to 1,250 pictures before recharging.

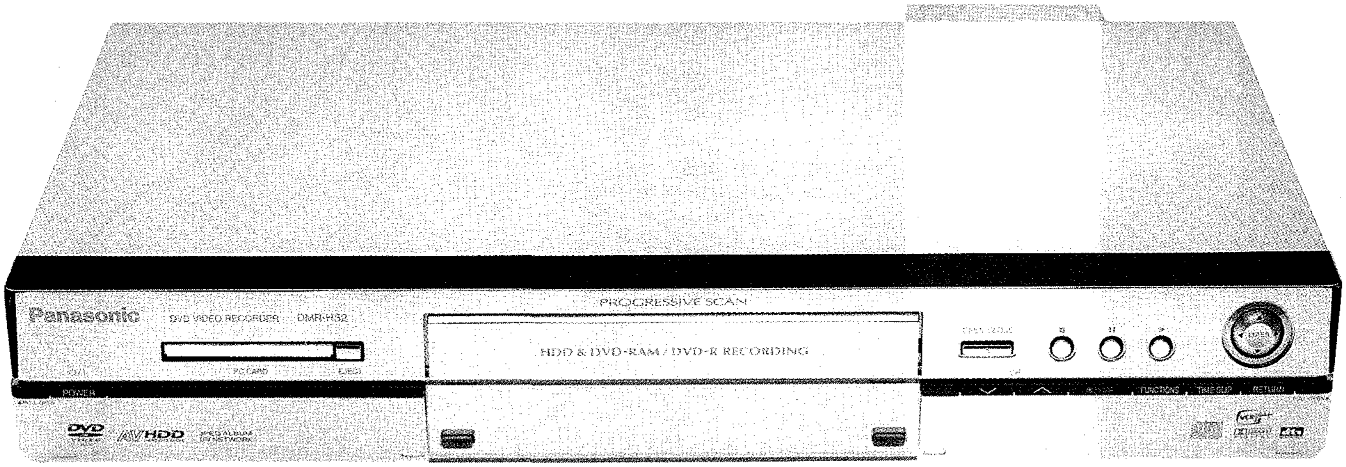
⬇ CREATIVE LABS NOMAD MUVO 128MB MP3 PLAYER, $150 at J&R.

WHAT: A diminutive two-piece MP3 player with a memory module that pulls out and plugs directly into a (Windows) PC USB port.

PERFECT FOR: A music lover who likes to travel light.

WHY WE LOVE IT: You don't need a cable to hook it up to your computer, and it plays up to twelve hours on one teeny AAA battery.

MuVo 128MB
NK000Z3154000019
CREATIVE



PANASONIC DMRHS2 DVD RECORDER, $800 at B&H.

WHAT: A VCR-like device that lets you record TV shows to either the built-in hard drive or to recordable DVDs—and convert old VHS tapes to DVD.

PERFECT FOR: Somebody who's addicted to TiVo, but wishes she could save her favorite shows to something more enduring than a TiVo hard drive.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It also has TiVo-ish capabilities, like the ability to "pause" live TV.

WHAT ELSE: It even has a PC-card slot so you can feed it photos from your digital still camera and watch them on your TV as a slide show.

SONIC BLUE RIO S35S MP3 PLAYER, $200 at J&R.

WHAT: An impact-resistant, rubberized 128MB MP3 player that comes with a built-in stopwatch and FM tuner.

PERFECT FOR: A sporty music fan.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's so small you can wear it with the included armband, and it's expandable (with optional memory cards). Plus, it's about 15 percent smaller than a similar model from Nike.

SAMSUNG YEPP 700H MP3 PLAYER, $190 at J&R.

WHAT: A sleek, ultraslim 128MB MP3 player that has a built-in mike so it can double as a memo recorder.

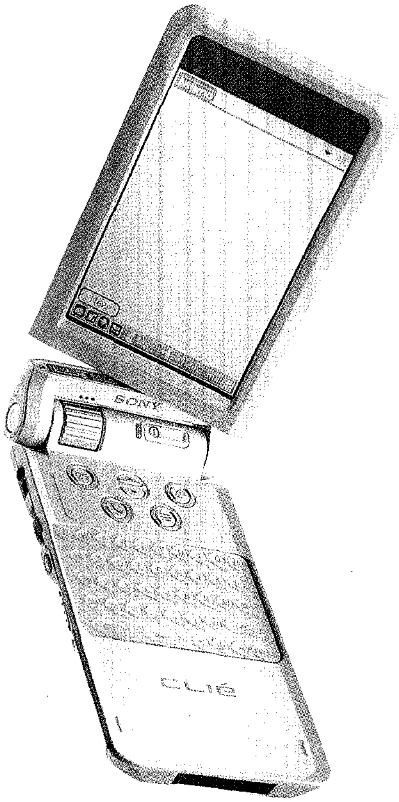
PERFECT FOR: A music lover who wants an MP3 player that looks like a stereo system, not a toy.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It has an FM tuner (why don't more MP3 players?).

WHAT ELSE: It's expandable thanks to its SmartMedia slot and an external auxiliary AAA-battery holder that keeps it powered up for an extra twelve hours.

yepp
VOL
yepp

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.



SONY NX70V COLOR CLIÉ PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT, $600 through Sony VIP services (877-217-SONY).

WHAT: A Palm-powered PDA that doubles as an MP3 player and digital still-video camera.

PERFECT FOR: A multitasking control freak.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The little keyboard makes data entry easy, and the all-in-one design means you don't have to lug around multiple electronic devices (it's even got a built-in voice recorder).

WHAT ELSE: The slot for adding an optional wireless network card means you can send and receive e-mail on the road.

ROYAL LINEA 16 PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT, $100 at Target stores in December.

WHAT: A low-cost alternative to many similarly featured PDAs, it includes all the usual basics (contact manager, to-do list, calculator with currency converter, etc.) but really shines when it comes to its powerful e-mail client and built-in modem.

PERFECT FOR: Those who are budget-conscious *and* anal-retentive.

WHAT ELSE: An optional $30 snap-on module lets you hook it up to your cell phone so you can send and receive e-mail wirelessly.

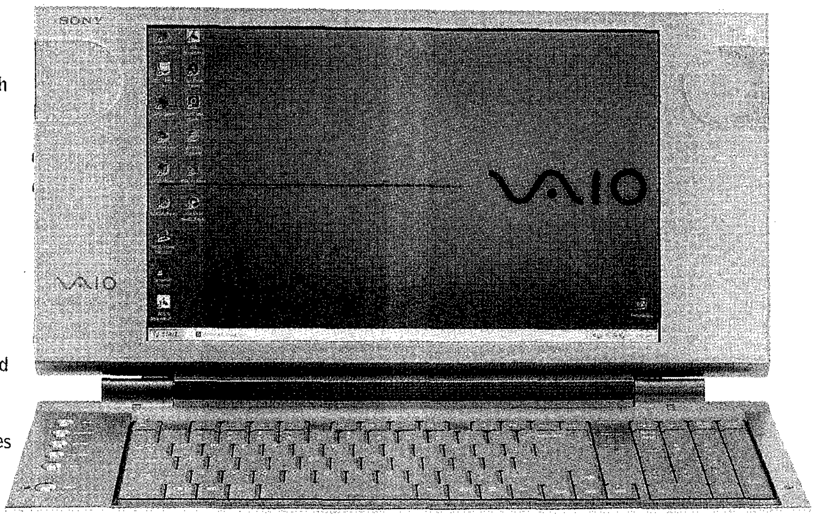
PALM TUNGSTEN-T PDA, $460 at J&R.

WHAT: A PDA with an innovative pull-down body that expands the viewing (and writing) area of the 320-by-320-pixel color display—which, by the way, shows more than 65,000 colors.

PERFECT FOR: A handheld devotee who wants to trade up to color.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Thanks to the crisp, dazzling color screen, it's no longer an exercise in futility to run Palm versions of applications like Excel and PowerPoint on your handheld.

WHAT ELSE: It's Bluetooth-enabled, which means it can wirelessly communicate with other Bluetooth-fluent devices, such as cell phones, laptops, printers, and other Palm handhelds.



SONY VAIO PCV-W10 DESKTOP PC, $1,600 through Sony VIP services (877-217-SONY) or at J&R.

WHAT: An all-in-one PC with a 15.3-inch wide-aspect LCD screen and stereo speakers.

PERFECT FOR: Windows loyalists who have iMac envy.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's got the Swiss Army knife of DVD drives—a Combo Drive that'll let you play DVD movies and read and write both music CDs and multimedia CD-ROMS.

WHAT ELSE: The modest footprint (the keyboard folds away for storage) makes it perfect for small desktops.

"… honey is a gift of love,
it shares all the sweetness
of the world in every drop…"

Olivier Baussan, Founder of L'OCCITANE

Honey Body Balm
Honey Foaming Jelly
Honey Candle
Honey Face Cream
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A True Story.

L'OCCITANE
EN PROVENCE

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For boutique locations, more information, or to place an order, please visit www.loccitane.com or call 1-888-623-2880.

SNOW TOYS *White-hot sports gear for the chilly-weather athlete.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

MOTOROLA T5820 TWO-WAY RADIOS, $100 for a pair at Circuit City stores.

WHAT: Water-resistant walkie-talkies with rechargeable batteries.

PERFECT FOR: People who ski in packs.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Stick to a channel, and similarly equipped friends will always know how to find you. With a five-mile range, they're also great for pickup calls.

WHAT ELSE: Can be used with an optional hands-free adapter.

NIKE N-DORFIN SKATES, $120 at Blades Board & Skate stores and Paragon Sporting Goods.

WHAT: Do-it-all ice skates.

PERFECT FOR: Anyone who doesn't fit the profile of a figure skater, speed skater, or hockey player.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: They're up to a bit of any kind of skating.

WHAT ELSE: Men's ($120) and kids' ($80) versions, too.

TALKABOUT
T5820
MENU
GMRS
MOTOROLA

BOERI APOLLO FIREBALL HELMET, $70 at Princeton Ski Shops.

WHAT: A ski-and-snowboard helmet designed specifically for kids.

PERFECT FOR: Pint-size speed demons (or speed freaks-in-training).

WHY WE LOVE IT: A helmet is a must for anyone. Thankfully, most kids actually think they're cool. This one with cute, cartoonish flames is by far the coolest.

WHAT ELSE: Also comes in royal blue with stars and stripes and lavender or pink with snowflakes.

BURTON DOMINANT SNOWBOARD, $400 at Blades Board & Skate stores and New York Pipe Dreams.

WHAT: A paint-it-yourself snowboard.

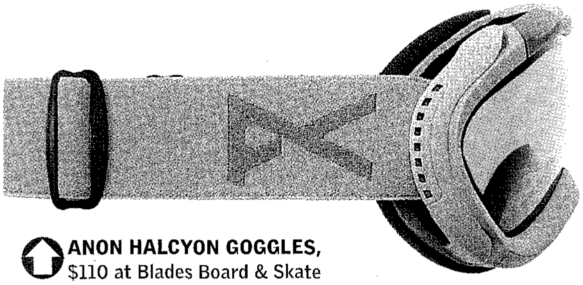
PERFECT FOR: Masters of the terrain park.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The sharp stencils (skulls, daggers, and so on) make the usual mess of stomp pads, stickers, and Sharpie scrawl look like old news.

WHAT ELSE: Good flex, a lot of snap, and a twin-tip shape make for cutting-edge performance. Comes in sizes from 146 to 159.

DOMINANT
DOMINANT
DOMINANT

EDITED BY SHYAMA PATEL.



ANON HALCYON GOGGLES, $110 at Blades Board & Skate stores, New York Pipe Dreams, and Supreme.

WHAT: Goggles that come with two sets of lenses and a chic hard-sided case.

PERFECT FOR: Pack rats, who generally travel with several different pairs of eyewear.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: They're streamlined and flattering (for goggles, that is) but also have hinges that make changing lenses a snap, even right on the slopes.

DESTROY!
MORRISON
The SETH
pistol

K2 SETH PISTOL SKIS, $750 at Princeton Ski Shops.

WHAT: Powder skis designed by extreme skier Seth Morrison.

PERFECT FOR: Advanced to expert skiers who know no boundaries.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: These brand-new midseason releases float like boats on powder, but—unlike the last generation of fat skis—they're stiff enough, and shaped enough, to power through the nasty stuff.

WHAT ELSE: Available in sizes 169, 179, and 189, the Seth Pistol is appropriate for backcountry-bound girls too.

SALOMON STL FULLY FEATURED JACKET, $360 at Paragon Sporting Goods.

WHAT: A stretchy, highly breathable, water-resistant parka.

PERFECT FOR: Men, women, and teenagers—skiers or not.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The sleekest jacket we've seen. The outside is stretchy, highly breathable Cordura nylon; inside, it's soft, warm fleece. It has pockets that fit everything from lift passes to cell phones and CD players—plus a distinctive padded arm pouch for your walkie-talkie.

WHAT ELSE: In red or black for women; in green or black for men.

MAMMUT
SEND
MODE
SEARCH
Barryvox

MAMMUT BARRYVOX AVALANCHE TRANSCEIVER, $299 at Eastern Mountain Sports stores and Tent and Trails.

WHAT: A combination digital-analog avalanche transceiver.

PERFECT FOR: Anyone who ventures out of bounds.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Transceivers are notoriously difficult to read. Not so this version, whose interface is a cinch for amateurs to master—no laughing matter, since you're unlikely to survive more than ten to fifteen minutes buried in the snow. Sold with a body strap.

DANA DESIGN COLCHUK PACK, $189 at Eastern Mountain Sports stores and Paragon Sporting Goods.

WHAT: A pack designed for skiers and snowboarders.

PERFECT FOR: Anyone who carries his own equipment—whether just getting to the mountain or hiking up it.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Fitted with loads of multipurpose pockets and loops, this super-lightweight pack will hold your skis or snowboard along with everything else you could need for a day on the mountain, from CD players and sunglasses to shovels and tools.

WHAT ELSE: Comes with a detachable waist strap.

ROSSIGNOL SAPHIR FUN SKIS, $499 at Panda Sport and Princeton Ski Shops.

WHAT: Sassy, floral California-girl-inspired shaped skis.

PERFECT FOR: Intermediate to advanced woman skiers.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: They ensure that any competent skier who isn't out to race, hike, or conquer the bumps will have fun on the piste.

WHAT ELSE: Comes in sizes 140, 150, 160, and 167. The Saphir Snow version has more conventional graphics.

CHOCOLATE *Indulge your sweet's sweet tooth with the most tempting of treats.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

HANUKKAH BALLOTIN, $23 at Godiva stores.

WHAT: A half-pound assortment.

PERFECT FOR: The host of a swank Hanukkah dinner.

WHY WE LOVE IT: All the expected Godiva goodness, and it's kosher.

ASSORTED TRUFFLES, $72 at Black Hound New York.

WHAT: Two pounds of white-, milk-, and bittersweet-chocolate truffles.

PERFECT FOR: The vintage fan—into the handmade look, not modern packaging.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Incredibly luscious hand-rolled chocolates packed with none of the usual truffle froufrou.

MARTINE'S CHOCOLATES, $54 at Bloomingdale's.

PERFECT FOR: Posh hostesses.

WHAT: 36 pieces of chocolate. You choose which ones, from truffles to fresh creams.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: They're the freshest of the fresh, handmade every day on Bloomingdale's sixth floor.

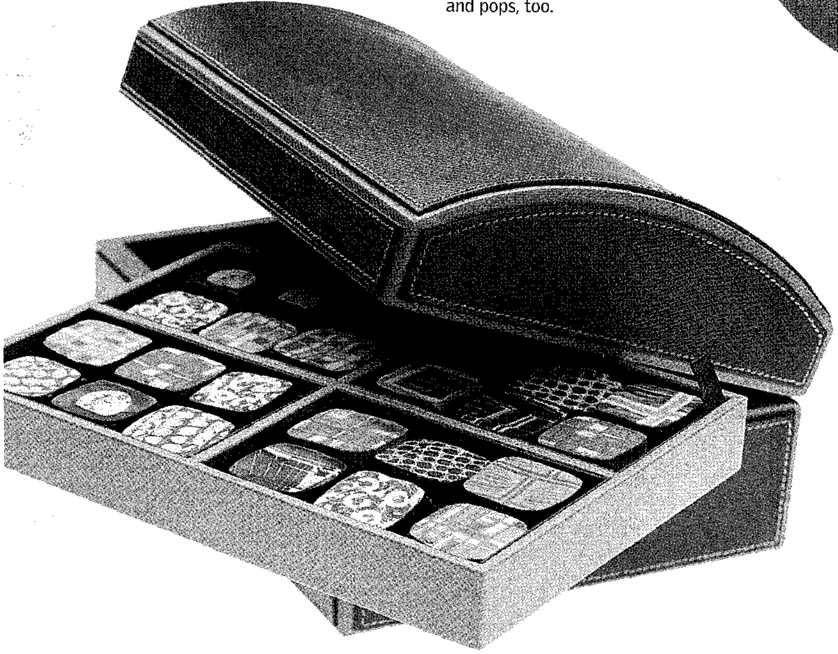
WHAT ELSE: Hanukkah chocolates and pops, too.

CHOCOLATE TRUNK, $350 at MarieBelle.

WHAT: Custom-made Italian leather trunk with two trays (48 pieces) of hand-colored chocolates of your choice.

PERFECT FOR: Accessories addicts with chocolate cravings.

WHY WE LOVE IT: In this case, an empty box is a good thing. Fill it with jewelry.

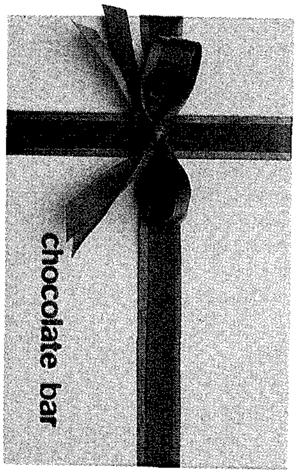


TRUFFLE BOX, $28 at Chocolate Bar.

WHAT: Two pounds of assorted truffles (24 pieces) of your choice. Flavors range from regular milk chocolate to salted caramel, pumpkin, lemon, and wicked hot (spiced with chipotle and cinnamon).

PERFECT FOR: Modernists who expect something exciting and new—even from their candy.

WHY WE LOVE IT: For the seriously chic box, unusual shapes (squares, triangles), and wacky flavors.



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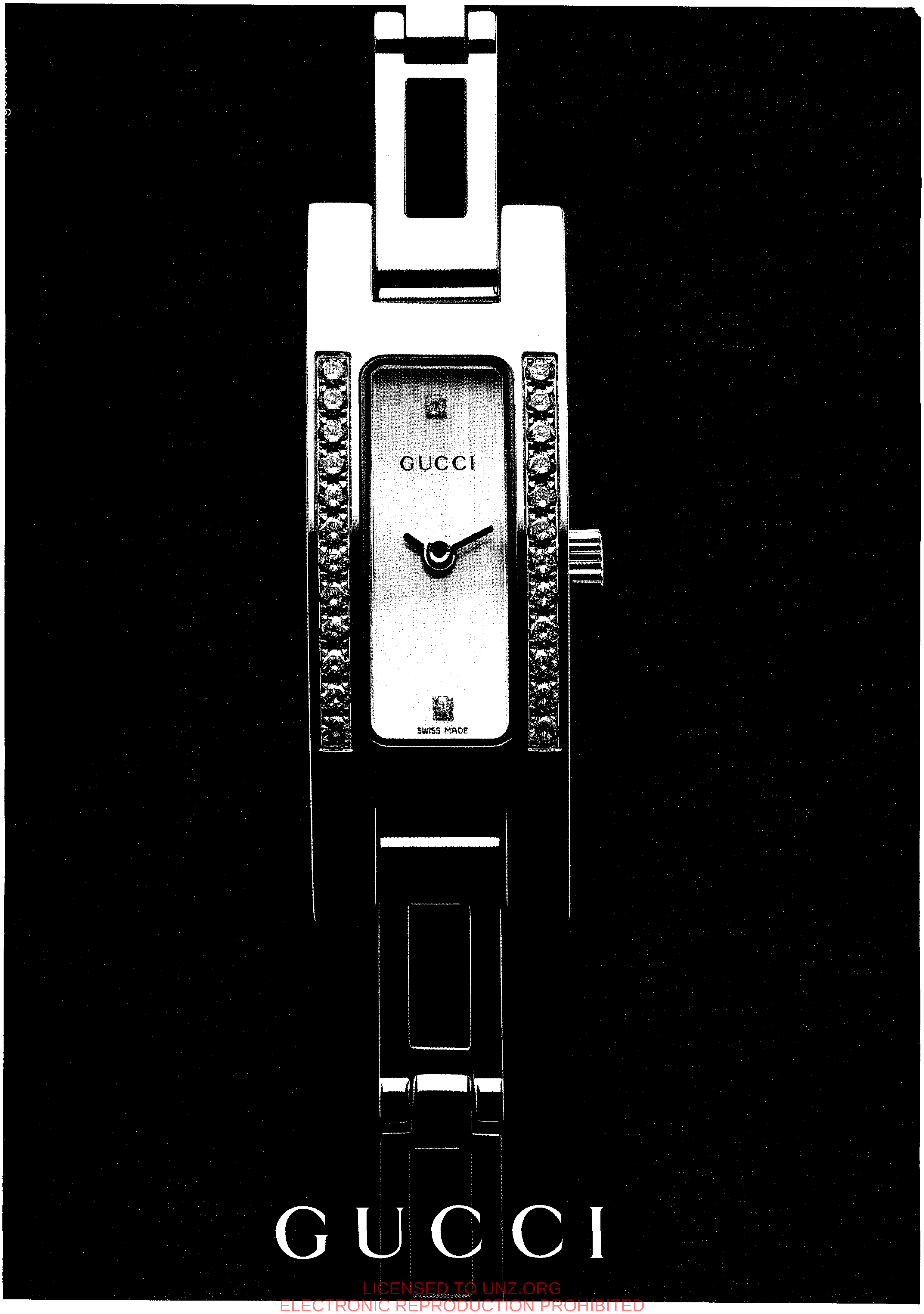
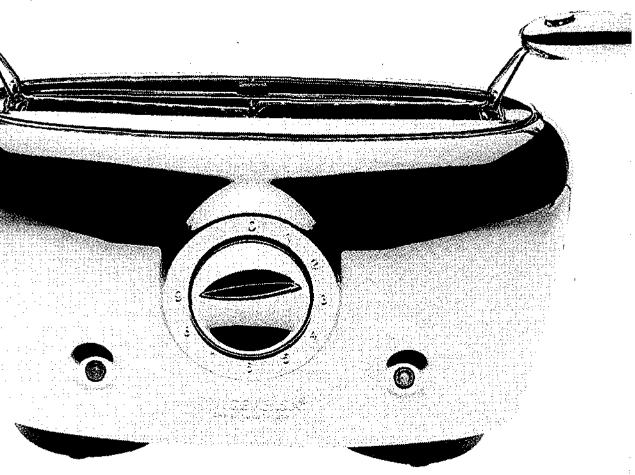

GUCCI
SWISS MADE
GUCCI

KITCHEN *Romance the chef with the season's hottest brewers and shakers.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.



VICEVERSA TOASTER, $130 at the Terence Conran Shop.

PERFECT FOR: Bread lovers.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Streamlined and superpractical, this shiny new toaster does bread to perfection and also comes with basket-type inserts that make toasted muffins a cinch to retrieve and keep sandwiches from falling apart while they toast.

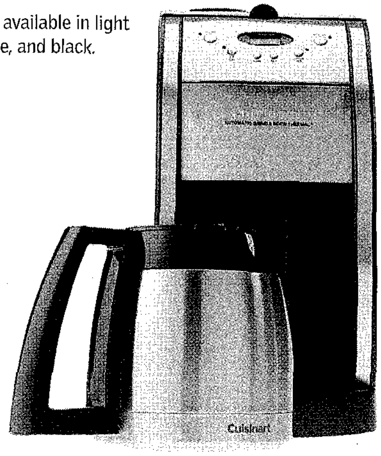
Off/0 Stir 2 4 6 8 10
ARTISAN
Kitche

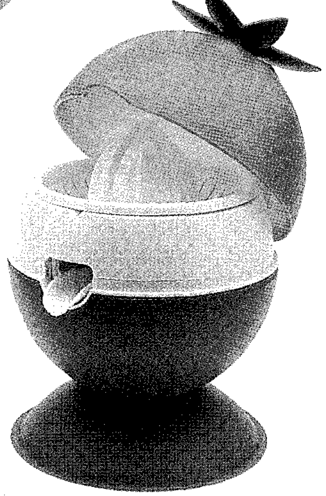
KITCHENAID ARTISAN STAND MIXER, $249 at Williams-Sonoma.

PERFECT FOR: Aspiring bakers with retro-chic décor.

WHY WE LOVE IT: This ageless classic takes the drudgery out of beating batters and kneading bread. Not to mention the new color, which really pops on the counter.

WHAT ELSE: Also available in light blue, yellow, white, and black.





BRAUN MULTIQUICK PROFESSIONAL HAND BLENDER, $100 at Macy's.

PERFECT FOR: People with galley kitchens.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Many a chef's favorite gadget, this immersion blender has a whopping 400-watt motor that's powerful enough to pulverize ice. In fact, it comes with a container specifically meant for that.

WHAT ELSE: Also has attachments for puréeing, chopping, and whisking that are compact and easy to store.

JUST-RITE ELECTRIC CITRUS JUICER, $32 at Pilgrim Home.

PERFECT FOR: Recent grads setting up house.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The clever lid conceals the juicing mechanism when not in use, and detaches to double as a pitcher (with the leaves as the base). And since it's electric, you don't need to apply a lot of pressure to extract the juice.

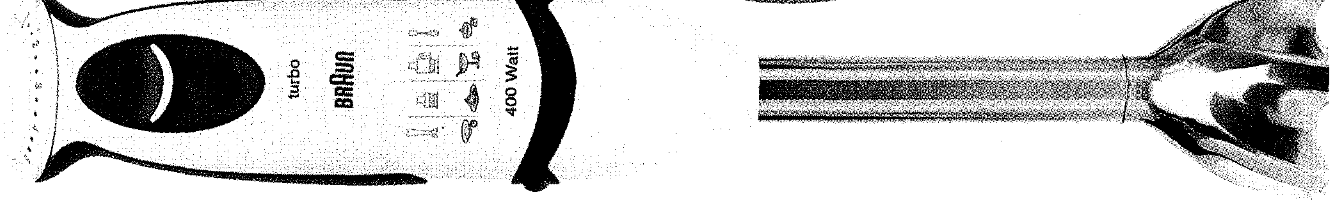
WHAT ELSE: Comes with two reamers (one for big fruits, one for small).

CUISINART GRIND AND BREW THERMAL 10-CUP AUTOMATIC COFFEEMAKER, $149 at Bloomingdale's.

PERFECT FOR: People who *really* can't think before downing a cup of joe.

WHY WE LOVE IT: This do-it-all gizmo can be programmed 24 hours in advance to grind and brew your coffee for just the right time—and then the insulated ten-cup pot will keep it warm until you're ready to drink it (no stewing as it keeps warm!).

WHAT ELSE: A pause button lets you sneak out a cup before the cycle ends.



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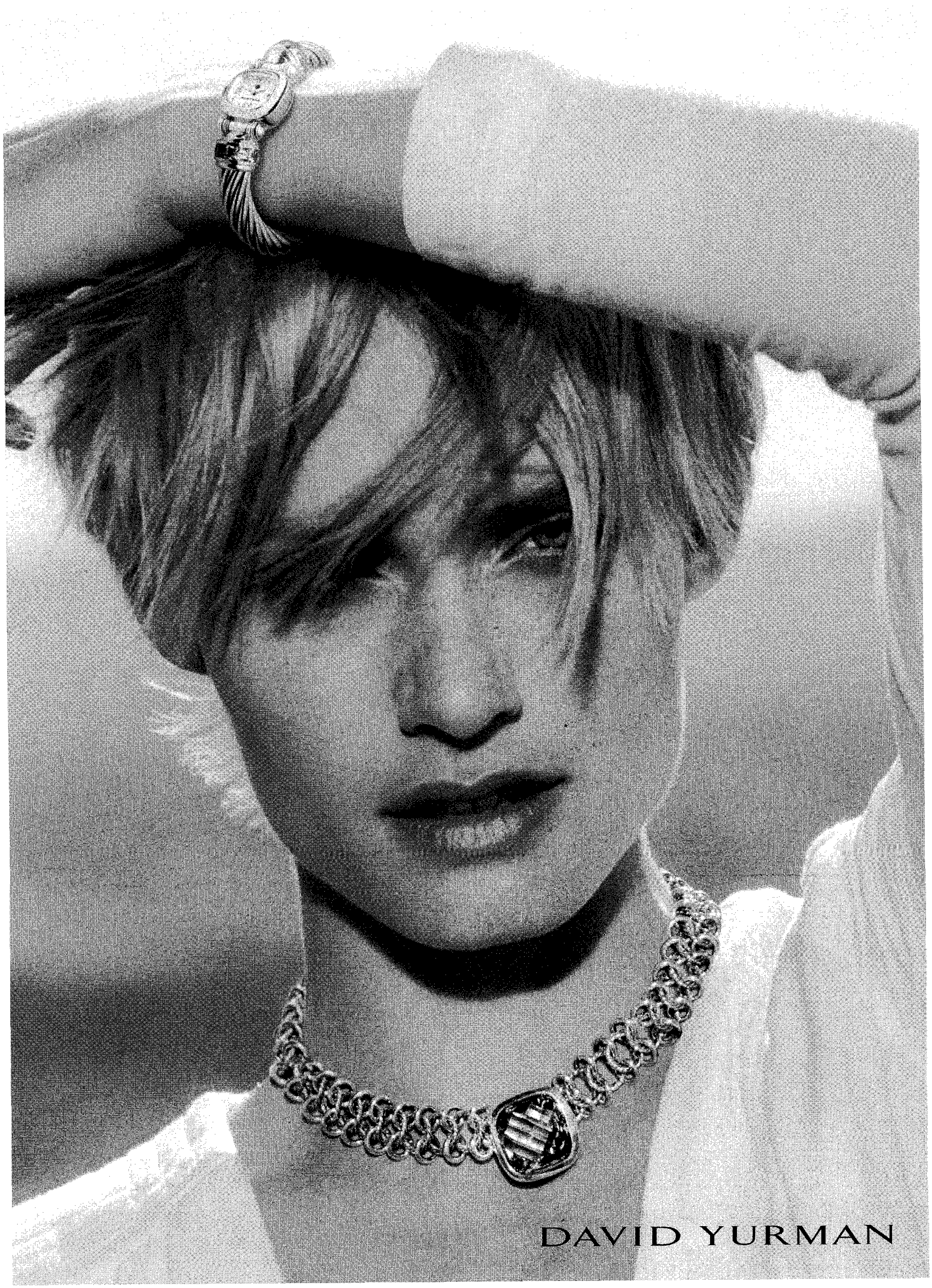
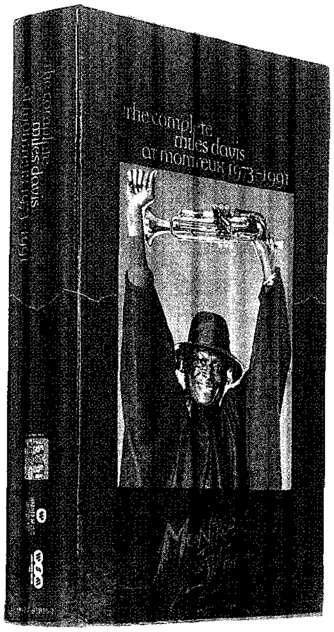

DAVID YURMAN

MADISON AT 64TH STREET 212 752 4255

CDs & DVDs *Spectacular sights and sounds for your favorite culture vultures.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.


the complete miles davis at montreux 1973-1991

THE COMPLETE MILES DAVIS AT MONTREUX, 1973–1991, Warner Music, $250 at Tower Records.

WHAT: Twenty CDs dedicated to the legendary trumpeter's performances at the equally legendary Montreux Jazz Festival during the time he was crossing over from cool to postmodern jazz.

PERFECT FOR: Fusion freaks.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: When they say this is complete, they mean it: every set Davis played at the festival, most of which have never been available.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN: THE ORIGINAL JACKET COLLECTION, $100 for the ten-CD set at Tower Records.

WHAT: *Some of Bernstein's most* renowned recordings with the Phil, from Mahler to Gershwin to—Bernstein. Each CD is wrapped in a reproduction of the original 33-rpm cover art.

PERFECT FOR: Everyone who fell in love with classical music watching Bernstein's Young Peoples' Concerts on TV.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: The Maestro's passion and range are irresistible.

THE ORIGINAL JACKET COLLECTION
LEONARD BERNSTEIN
LIMITED EDITION
10-CD SET

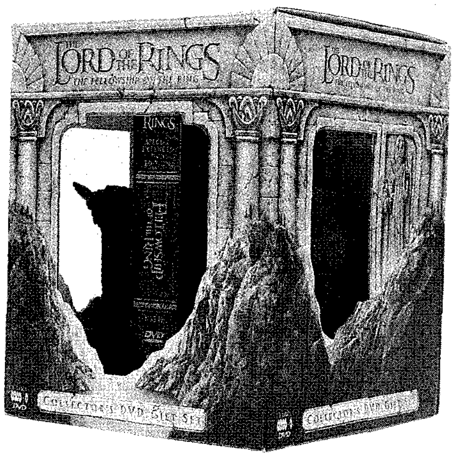
GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
DAS RHEINGOLD
DIE WALKÜRE
SIEGFRIED

DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN, Deutsche Grammophon, $115 at Tower Records.

WHAT: The Met's complete *Ring* cycle on seven DVDs.

PERFECT FOR: *Ring* diehards and Wagner novices alike.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Sumptuous singing from some of the biggest names in opera, under James Levine's baton.

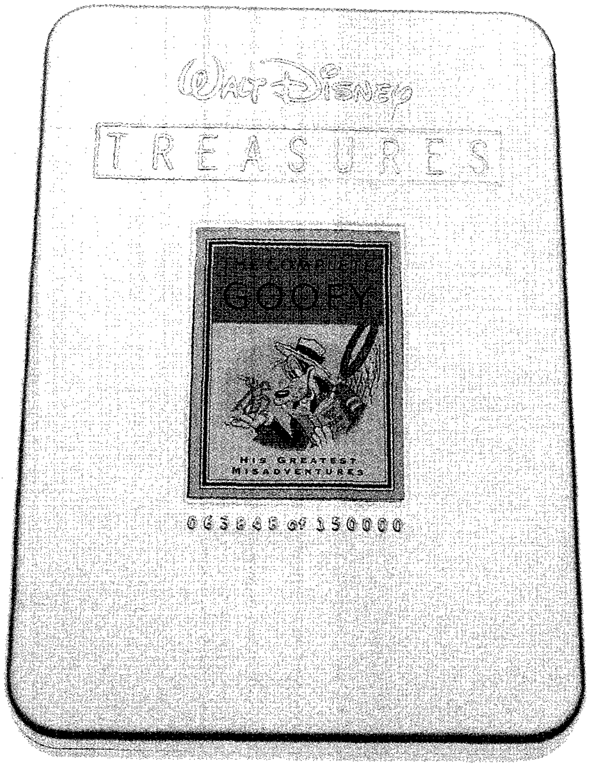

THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING, New Line Home Entertainment, $80 for four DVDs and a pair of Argonath bookends at HMV and the Wiz stores.

WHAT: Great packaging includes a couple of adorable statues in the collector's gift set.

PERFECT FOR: Regular fellows who would be *warriors.*

WHY WE LOVE THEM: You can listen to one of four commentary tracks while you watch the movie, or watch one of the numerous "making of" featurettes.


Walt Disney
TREASURES
THE COMPLETE GOOFY
HIS GREATEST MISADVENTURES
063848 of 150000

WALT DISNEY TREASURES, $32.99 at the Disney Store.

WHAT: Two DVDs in each of three editions, packed with classic cartoons and shorts.

PERFECT FOR: Kids to watch with their parents.

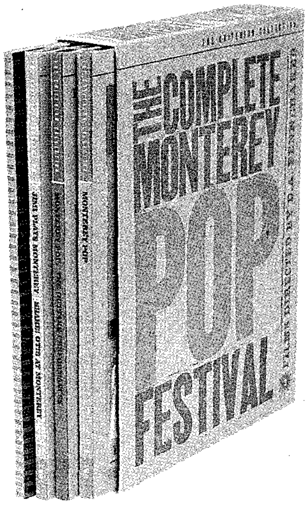
WHY WE LOVE THEM: How can you not love *something called* "The Complete Goofy"?

THE COMPLETE MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL, THE CRITERION COLLECTION, $80 for three DVDs at amazon.com.

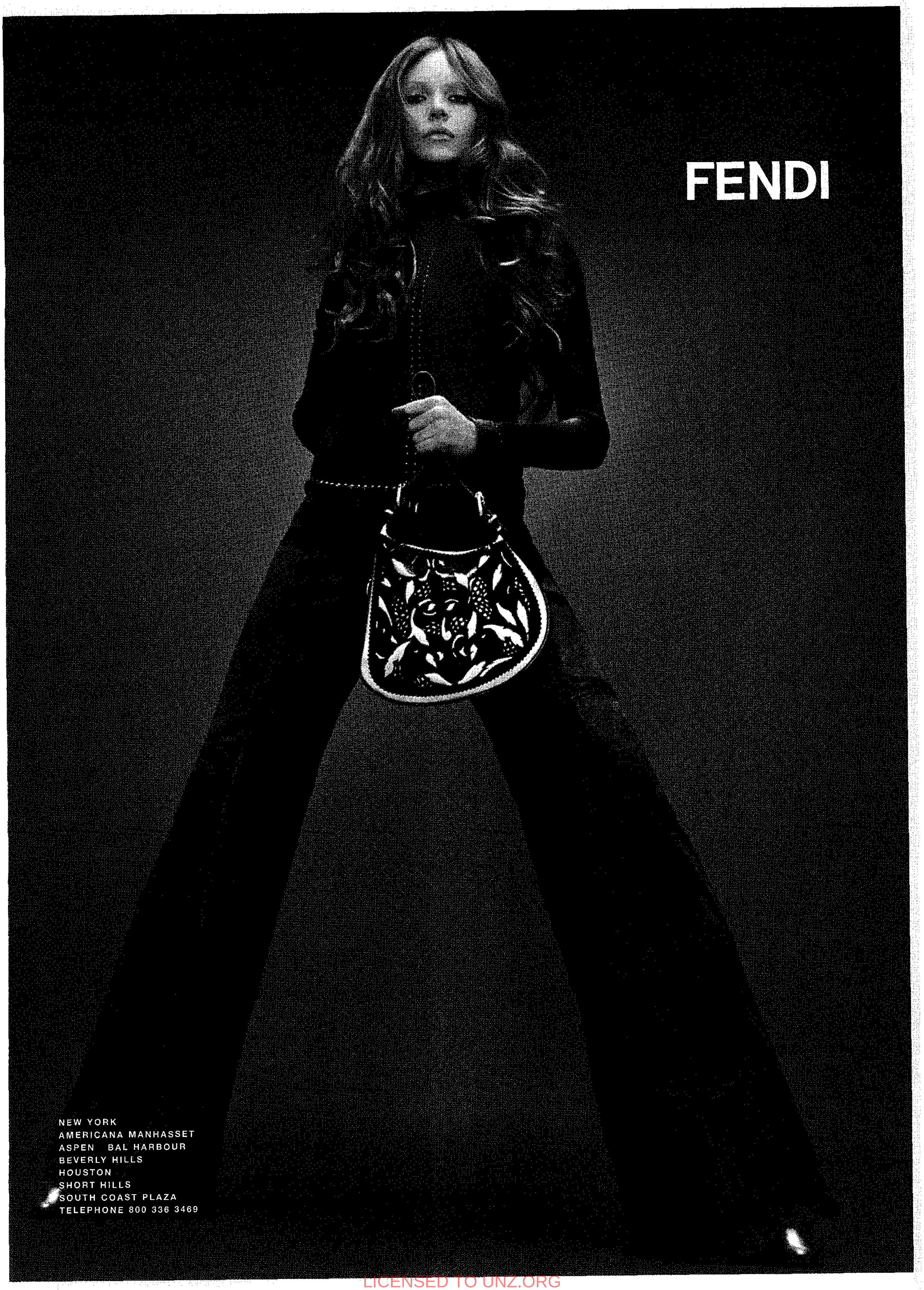
WHAT: A documentary *about the* 1967 *festival that* made Woodstock look like a church dance.

PERFECT FOR: Boomers waxing nostalgic for the Summer of Love.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Performances by everyone from Jimi to Janis, with outtakes and commentary.


THE COMPLETE MONTEREY POP FESTIVAL

EDITED BY JEREMY GERARD.



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POWER TOOLS *New releases that will have your home-improvers humming.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

B&D
Black & Decker
14.4V

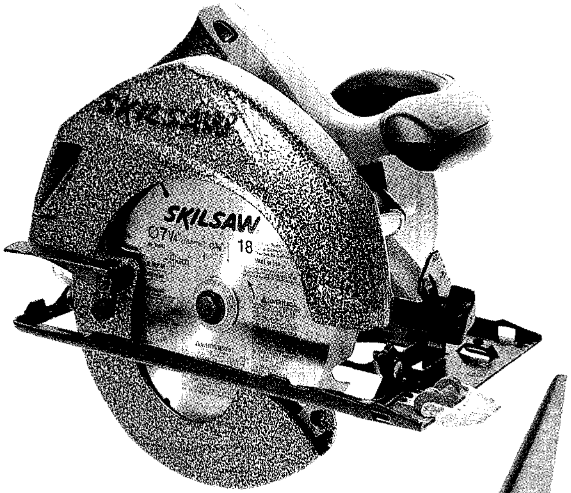
BLACK & DECKER 85TH ANNIVERSARY 14.4-VOLT CORDLESS DRILL, $99 at Home Depot.

WHAT: A cordless drill with a built-in electronic level and 24-position clutch and keyless chuck.

PERFECT FOR: City dwellers who hate to rely on their supers for minor repairs.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Unlike your average drill, it's snazzy enough to leave on the kitchen counter.

WHAT ELSE: Has a cool, soft carrying case with plenty of room for bits and the AC recharger.

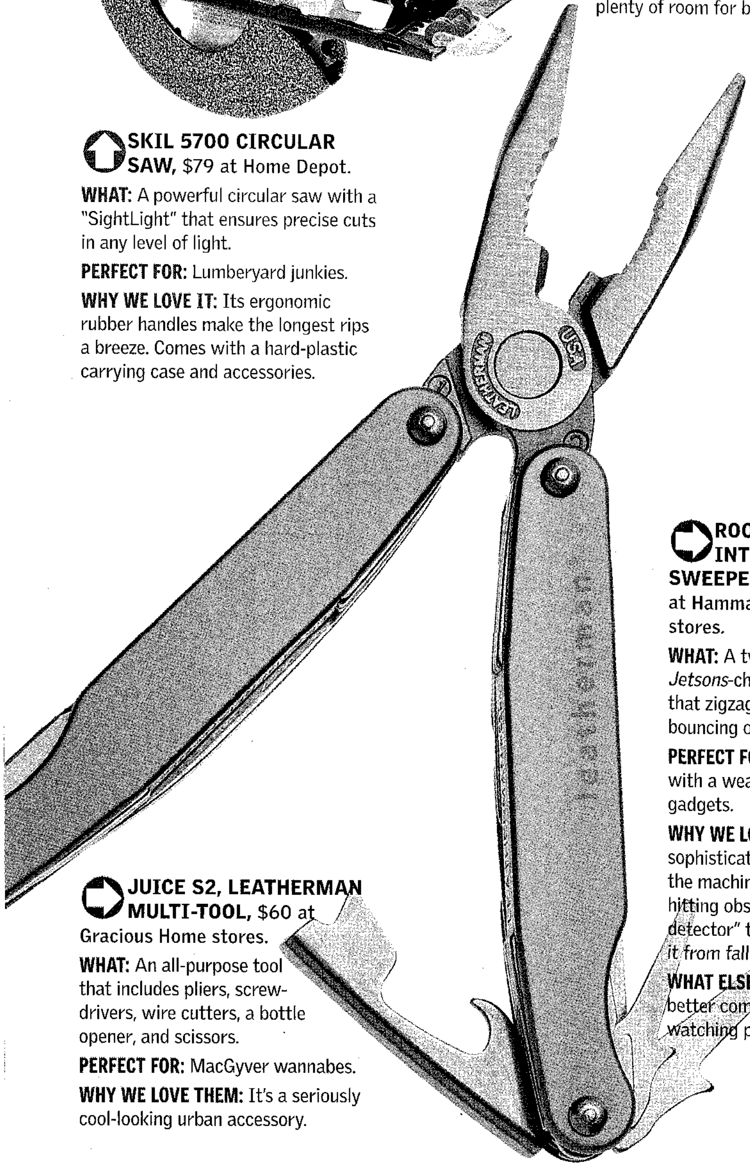


SKIL 5700 CIRCULAR SAW, $79 at Home Depot.

WHAT: A powerful circular saw with a "SightLight" that ensures precise cuts in any level of light.

PERFECT FOR: Lumberyard junkies.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Its ergonomic rubber handles make the longest rips a breeze. Comes with a hard-plastic carrying case and accessories.



JUICE S2, LEATHERMAN MULTI-TOOL, $60 at Gracious Home stores.

WHAT: An all-purpose tool that includes pliers, screwdrivers, wire cutters, a bottle opener, and scissors.

PERFECT FOR: MacGyver wannabes.

WHY WE LOVE THEM: It's a seriously cool-looking urban accessory.

ROOMBA INTELLIGENT SWEEPER VAC, $200 at Hammacher Schlemmer stores.

WHAT: A twelve-inch round *Jetsons*-chic robotic vacuum that zigzags around a room, bouncing off the walls.

PERFECT FOR: Neat freaks with a weakness for gadgets.

WHY WE LOVE IT: A set of sophisticated sensors keeps the machine moving after hitting obstacles, and a "cliff detector" technology keeps it from falling down stairs.

WHAT ELSE: There's no better comedy than watching pets chase it.

iRobot
Roomba
Intelligent FloorVac
S
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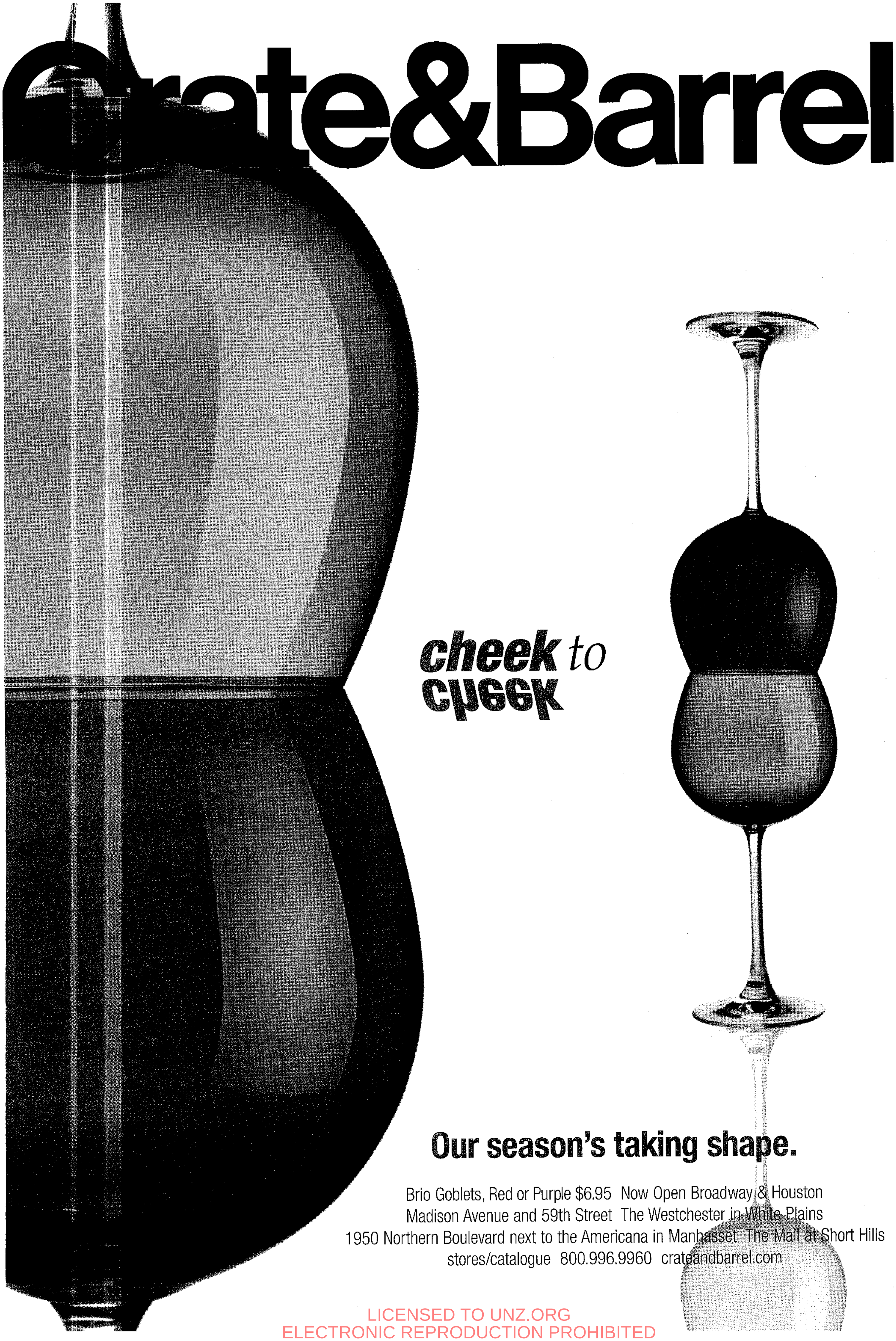
EDITED BY ARMIN HARRIS.

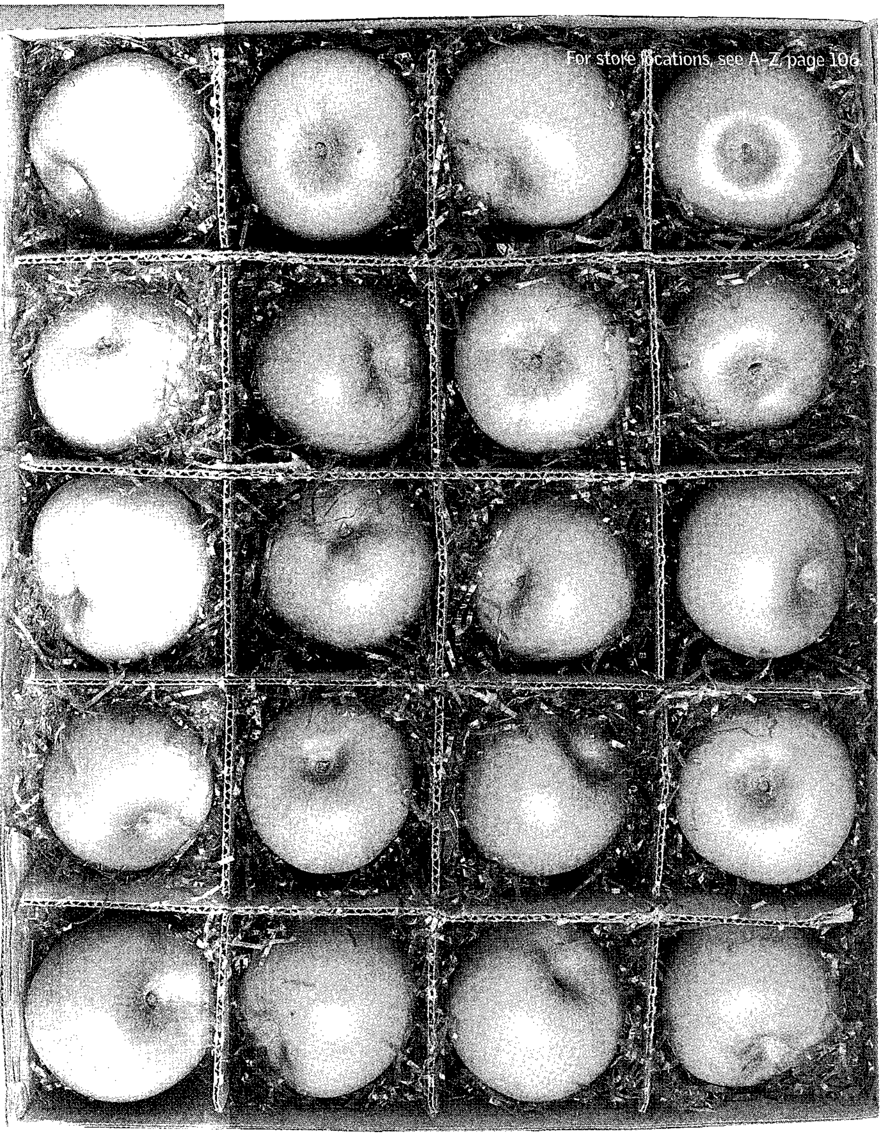


Crate&Barrel

cheek to cheek

Our season's taking shape.

Brio Goblets, Red or Purple $6.95 Now Open Broadway & Houston
Madison Avenue and 59th Street The Westchester in White Plains
1950 Northern Boulevard next to the Americana in Manhasset The Mall at Short Hills
stores/catalogue 800.996.9960 crateandbarrel.com



For store locations, see A-Z, page 106.

VALLEY FARMS ORGANIC APPLE TREE, $200–$250, plus an annual $45 horticulture fee (815-432-3719).

WHAT: Adopt a tree in the farm's orchard, and every year, they'll ship you—and everyone on your list—the apples ($16.50 per box).

PERFECT FOR: Farmstand fanatics.

WHY WE LOVE IT: You send your friends the delicious apples; Valley Farms takes care of the tree.

WHAT ELSE: Choose from Desert Red, Golden, Fuji, Granny Smith, and Gala trees. Each yields about 200 pounds (about 20 boxes) of fruit per year.

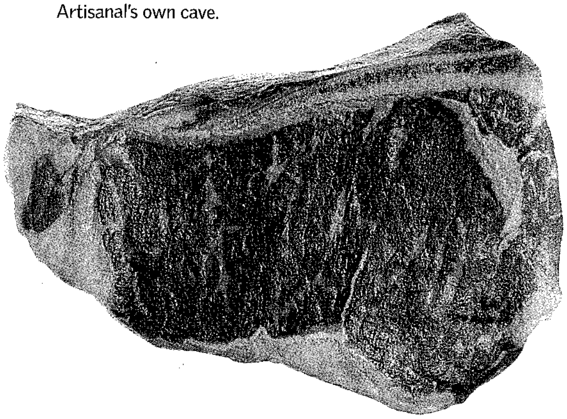
ARTISANAL
ARTISANAL

HOLIDAY CHEESE HAMPER, $150 plus shipping at Artisanal. Allow two days for delivery.

WHAT: A picnic basket packed with Camembert, Comte, Clacbitou, Robiola, and Stilton with all the fixings—dates, pears, dried figs, walnuts in lemon honey, mostarda di uva, crackers, James White pear juice, and even a French Opinel knife.

PERFECT FOR: Large families and spur-of-the-moment entertainers.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Cheeses from the world's top producers come in perfect condition, aged in Artisanal's own cave.



LOBEL'S GET TOGETHER PACK, $280 plus shipping (877-783-4512). Allow two weeks for Christmas delivery.

WHAT: A cooler full of steak: four filets, four strip steaks (two with bones, two without), and four veal chops.

PERFECT FOR: Any and all carnivores.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The company finds the finest USDA prime beef available, dry-ages it, vacuum-packs it, and—unlike most—sends it fresh. Which means, if you freeze the steaks, you'll know how long they've been frozen.

STRIP HOUSE RESTAURANT'S 24 KARAT CAKE, $85 plus shipping (212-328-0000). Allow seven business days for delivery.

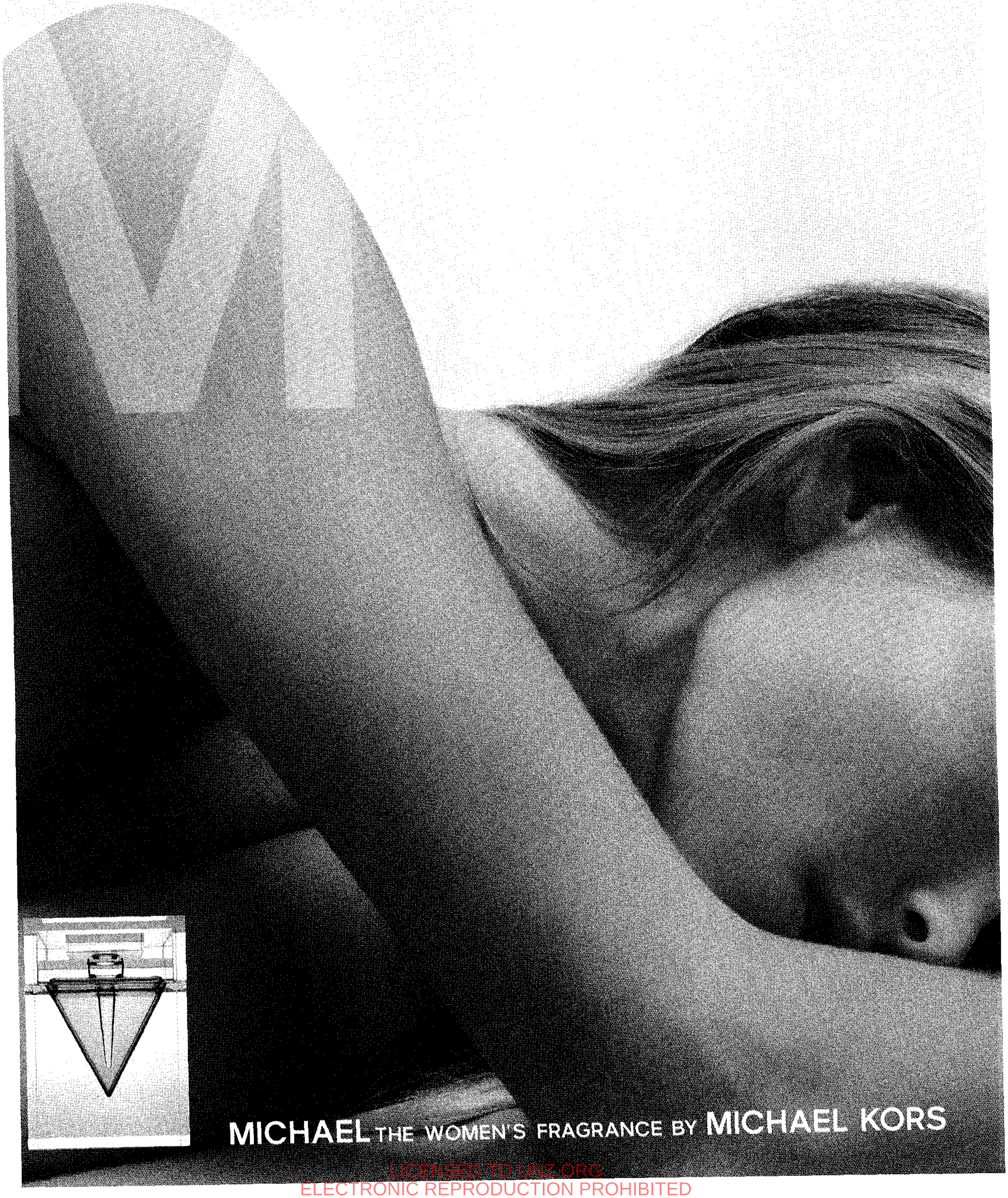
PERFECT FOR: Chocoholics having holiday parties.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Twelve layers of incredibly moist cake, separated by eleven layers of intense chocolate cream, all topped with a twenty-fourth layer of semi-sweet ganache and a gold-leaf square make this the ultimate chocolate dessert.

WHAT ELSE: Baked to order, these cakes are frozen just before shipping, and packed securely in bubble wrap and Styrofoam. Cakes keep for up to five days and serve eight to ten people.

EDITED BY GILLIAN DUFFY.

Saks Fifth Avenue/Michael Kors Direct 1 800 375 0417



M
MICHAEL THE WOMEN'S FRAGRANCE BY MICHAEL KORS

PET GEAR *Treats, toys, even a tent for our four-legged friends.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

HARRY BARKER GIFT PAIL, $25 (call 800-HI-HARRY to order).

PERFECT FOR: New parents.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Who knew puppy starter kits could be so snazzy? This personalized aluminum pail comes with a can of all-natural fat-free chicken-and-rice treats, a toile chew toy, and a terrycloth towel.

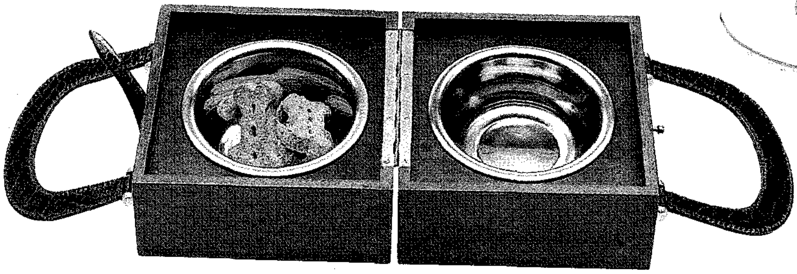
WHAT ELSE: Available in red and black toile versions, too.

TIGER'S TRAVELING BOWL SET, $625 at Bergdorf Goodman.

PERFECT FOR: Ladies who lunch—with their dogs.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Designed by *Über*-socialite Cece Cord, the imboya-wood box looks like a funky evening bag when it's closed but contains chic stainless-steel food and water bowls.

WHAT ELSE: Cord's collection is inspired by her travels with Tiger, her pet Yorkshire terrier. The ultimate status doggie bag: Cord's crocodile-trimmed tote ($6,450).



TEE-PEE HOUND LOUNGE, $218 at Fetch.

PERFECT FOR: Dog owners with Patagonia-inspired taste.

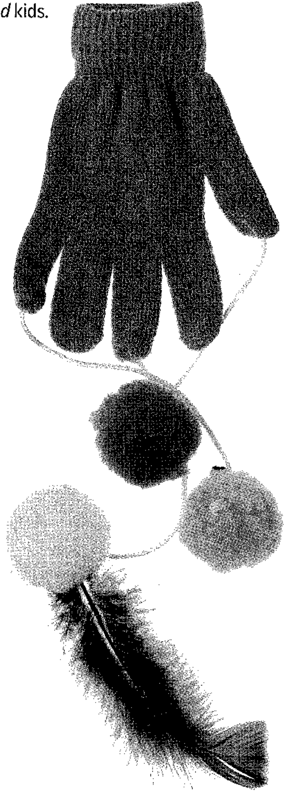
WHY WE LOVE IT: The tent is meant for indoor use, but it's perfect for the beach too. Plus, it comes with a comfy fleece snooze pad. Sweater from coverknits.com.

KITTEN MITT, $11 at the Four Paws Club.

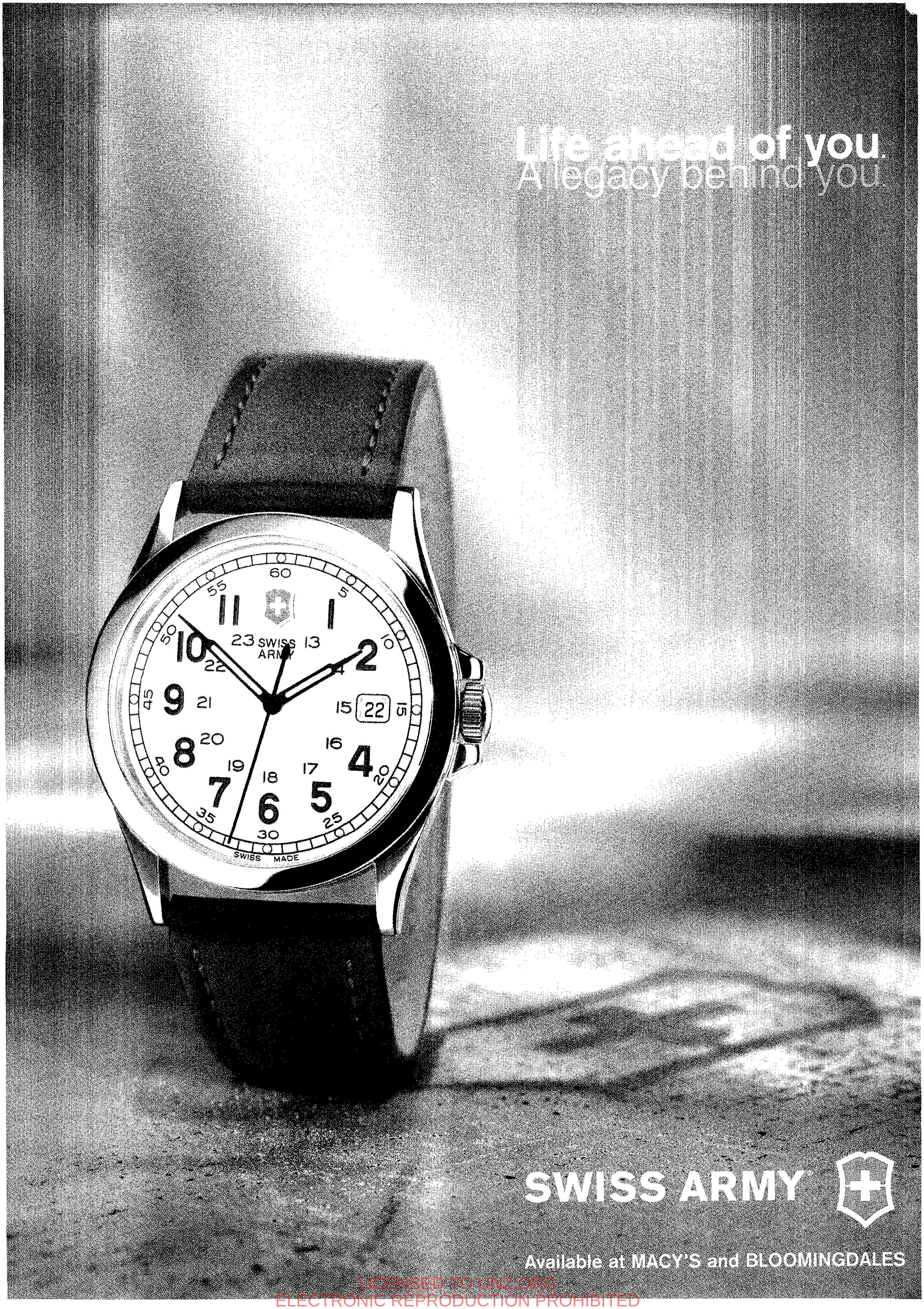
PERFECT FOR: Cat lovers whose idea of playing fetch doesn't involve getting off the couch.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The balls will make kitty jump with joy.

WHAT ELSE: It's one-size-fits-all because the glove stretches, so it's great for adults *and* kids.



EDITED BY MARC S. MALKIN.


Life ahead of you.
A legacy behind you.
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Available at MACY'S and BLOOMINGDALES

LIQUOR *Get friends into holiday spirits, from bubbly to Blue Label.*

For store locations, see A–Z, page 1

MOËT & CHANDON
WHITE STAR
MOËT

MOËT & CHANDON MINI FOUR-PACK, $40 at Sherry-Lehmann.

PERFECT FOR: Holiday fêtes—or parties of one.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Champagne from a flute is sweet—but out of a straw it's even sweeter.

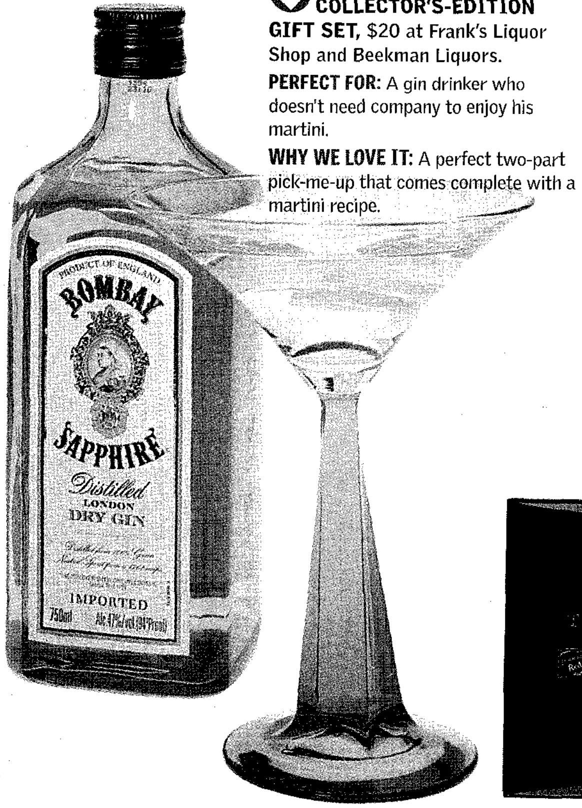
WHAT ELSE: Mini-flutes are included for purists.

2000
SAINT-JOSEPH
APPELLATION SAINT-JOSEPH CONTRÔLÉE
Pierre Gonon
CROZES

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE COLLECTOR'S-EDITION GIFT SET, $20 at Frank's Liquor Shop and Beekman Liquors.

PERFECT FOR: A gin drinker who doesn't need company to enjoy his martini.

WHY WE LOVE IT: A perfect two-part pick-me-up that comes complete with a martini recipe.


PRODUCT OF ENGLAND
BOMBAY
SAPPHIRE
Distilled
LONDON
DRY GIN
IMPORTED

RHÔNE RANGER GIFT SET, $60 at Burgundy Wine Company.

WHAT: One of three sets composed to introduce novices to Burgundy and Rhône wines.

PERFECT FOR: Merlot drinkers looking for something new.

WHY WE LOVE IT: No standing in the liquor store, agonizing over what's going to taste good.

WHAT ELSE: Comes wrapped. Just sign the card.

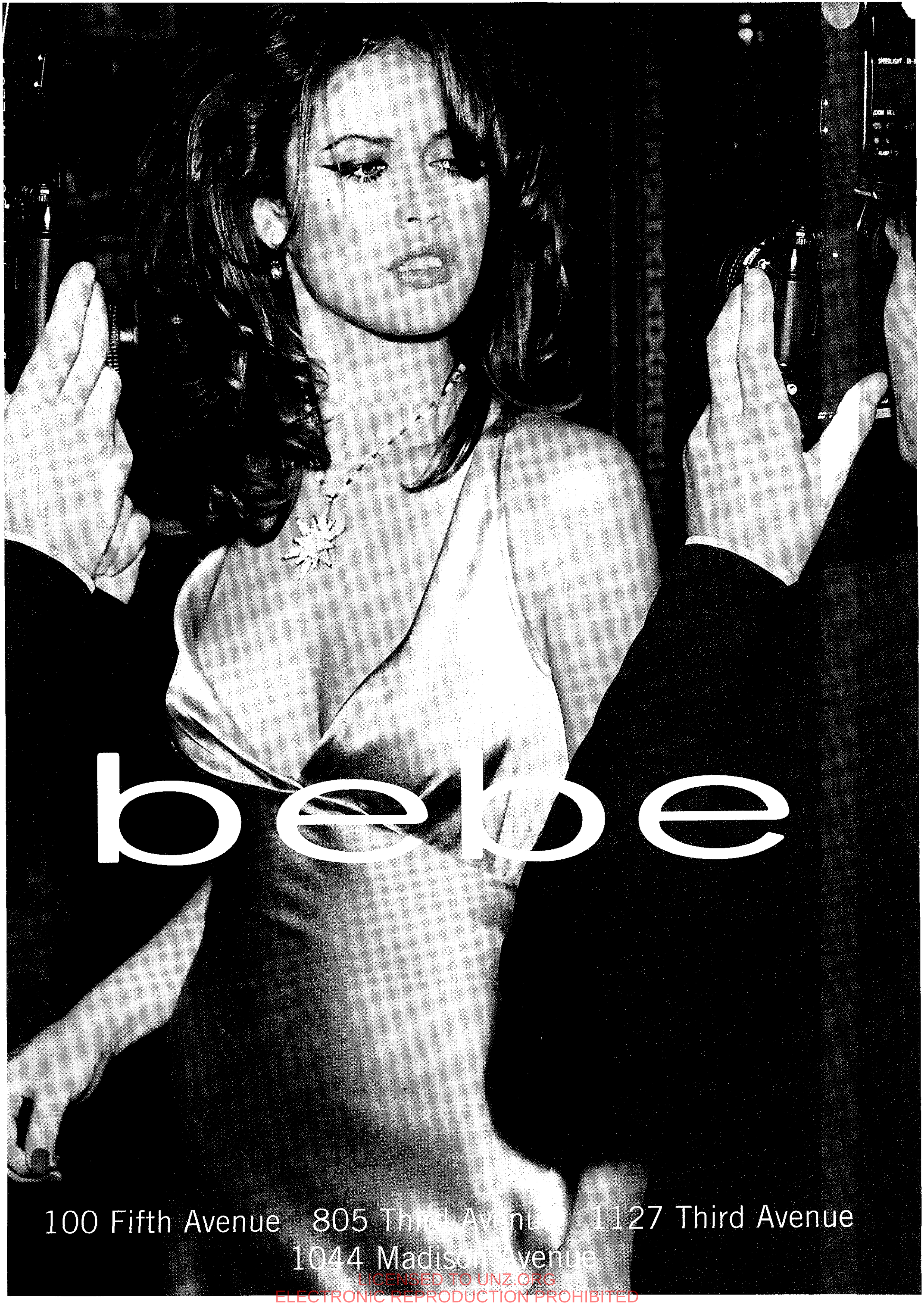
THE COLLECTION
JOHNNIE WALKER

THE JOHNNIE WALKER COLLECTION, $110 at Park Ave. Liquors.

PERFECT FOR: Scotch lovers who can't deal with single malts.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The four 200-ml. bottles of Johnnie Walker Red, Black, Gold, and the much-coveted Blue make for perfect side-by-side taste tests.

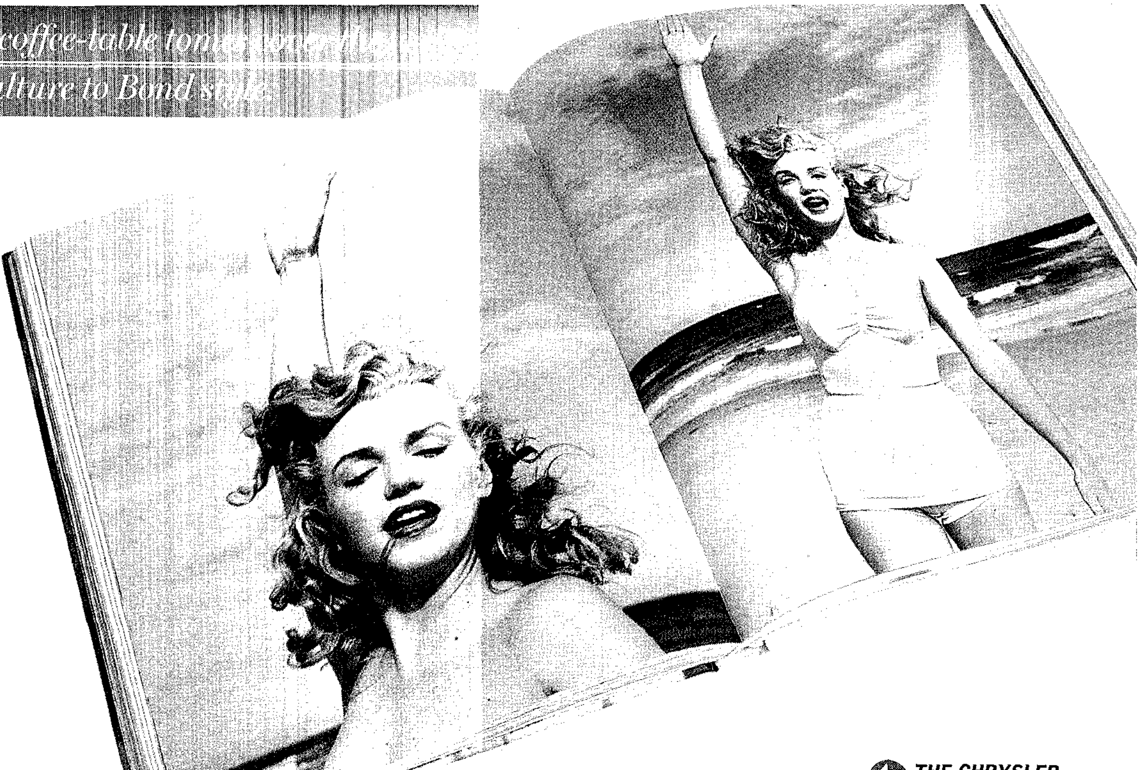
EDITED BY RIMA SUQ



bebe

100 Fifth Avenue 805 Third Avenue 1127 Third Avenue
1044 Madison Avenue

BOOKS *New coffee-table tomes [illegible] range from girl culture to Bond style.*

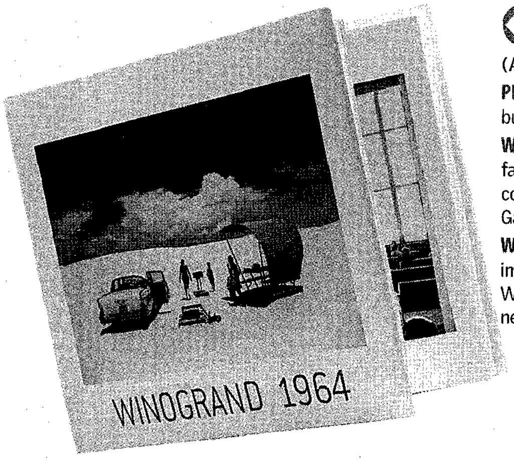


ANDRÉ DE DIENES, MARILYN, edited by Steve Crist and Shirley T. Ellis de Dienes (Taschen; $200).

PERFECT FOR: Monroe fans with big coffee tables.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The Hollywood icon has never looked more carefree or outdoorsy. De Dienes met the aspiring model in 1945 and helped launch her career (he was also briefly engaged to her), and his memoirs make very juicy reading, too.

WHAT ELSE: The tome comes in one of the best cases we've seen—a copy of the original Kodak photo-paper box that the pictures were stored in, marker scribbles and all.

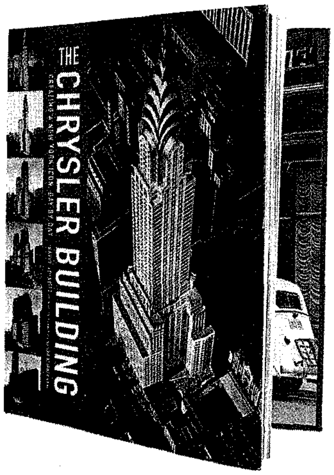


WINOGRAND: 1964, by Trudy Wilner Stack (Arena; $60).

PERFECT FOR: Sixties-Americana buffs and road-trip addicts.

WHY WE LOVE IT: These startlingly familiar images document a cross-country adventure photographer Garry Winogrand took in 1964.

WHAT ELSE: Most of the book's color images had never been printed from Winogrand's negatives (even he never saw them on paper).



THE CHRYSLER BUILDING: BUILDING A NEW YORK ICON DAY BY DAY, by David Stravitz (Princeton Architectural Press; $45).

PERFECT FOR: Trivia buffs who like to hold forth on the city's architectural history.

WHY WE LOVE IT: Archives on the construction of the 77-story Art Deco icon were supposedly lost, but Stravitz found a box of negatives on the floor of a defunct stock-photo company. The stunning, never-before-seen photographs document the construction of the building and street life around it. Did you know there were hubcaps among the gargoyles?

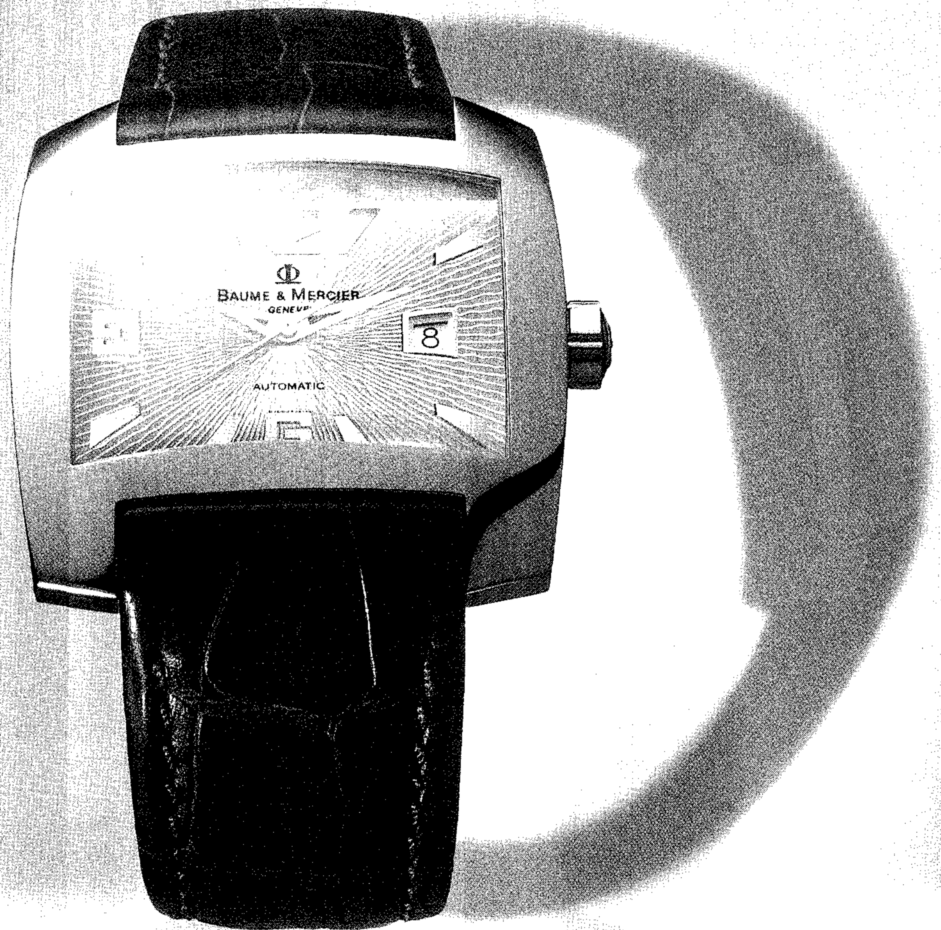
VITAMIN P: NEW PERSPECTIVES IN PAINTING, introduction by Barry Schwabsky (Phaidon; $69.95).

PERFECT FOR: Anyone who is under the illusion that painting is dead.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's a well-curated selection of paintings by 114 talked-about contemporary artists—among them Cecily Brown, John Currin, Tim Gardner, Inka Essenhigh, Julie Mehretu, Fabian Marcaccio, Elizabeth Peyton, and Matthew Ritchie.

EDITED BY EDITH NEWHALL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC PIASECKI.

BAUME & MERCIER
GENEVE · 1830



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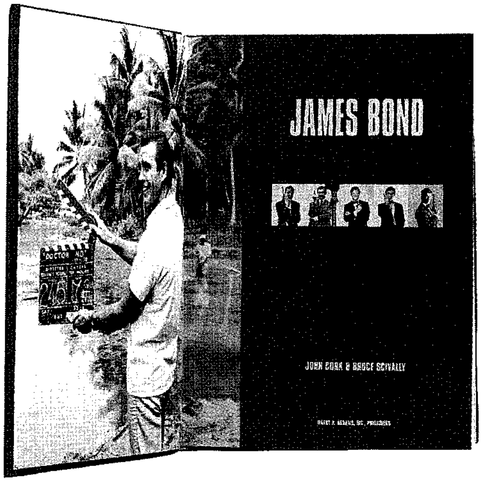
SAN JOSE SAN FRANCISCO

GIRL CULTURE

GIRL CULTURE, photographs by Lauren Greenfield, introduction by Joan Jacobs Brumberg (Chronicle Books; $40).

PERFECT FOR: The young, hip, and arty.

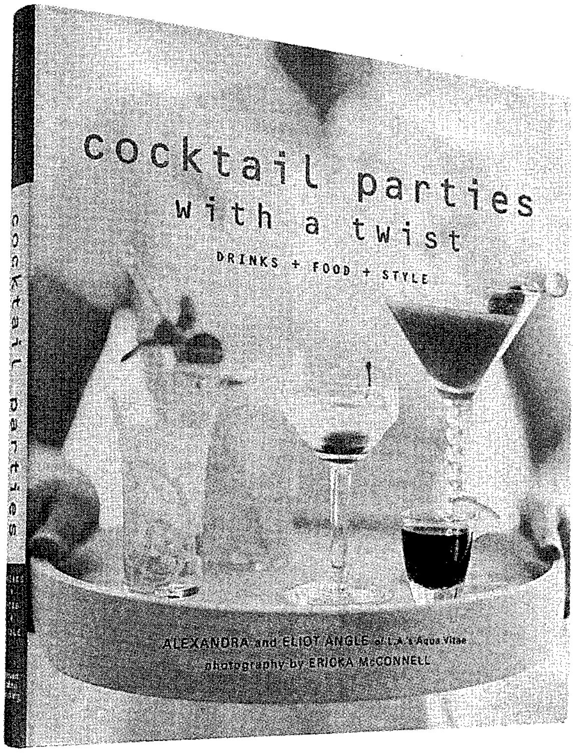
WHY WE LOVE IT: The documentary photographer, whose first book, *Fast Forward: Growing Up in the Shadow of Hollywood,* won her an ICP award, offers another provocative look into the world of adolescent girls.



JAMES BOND: THE LEGACY, FORTY YEARS OF 007 MOVIES, by John Cork and Bruce Scivally (Abrams; $49.95).

PERFECT FOR: He who drinks his martinis shaken, not stirred.

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's the ultimate guide to all things Bond, with anecdotes, facts, and features on the key actors, plus 550 photographs, illustrations, and storyboards from the Bond archives.

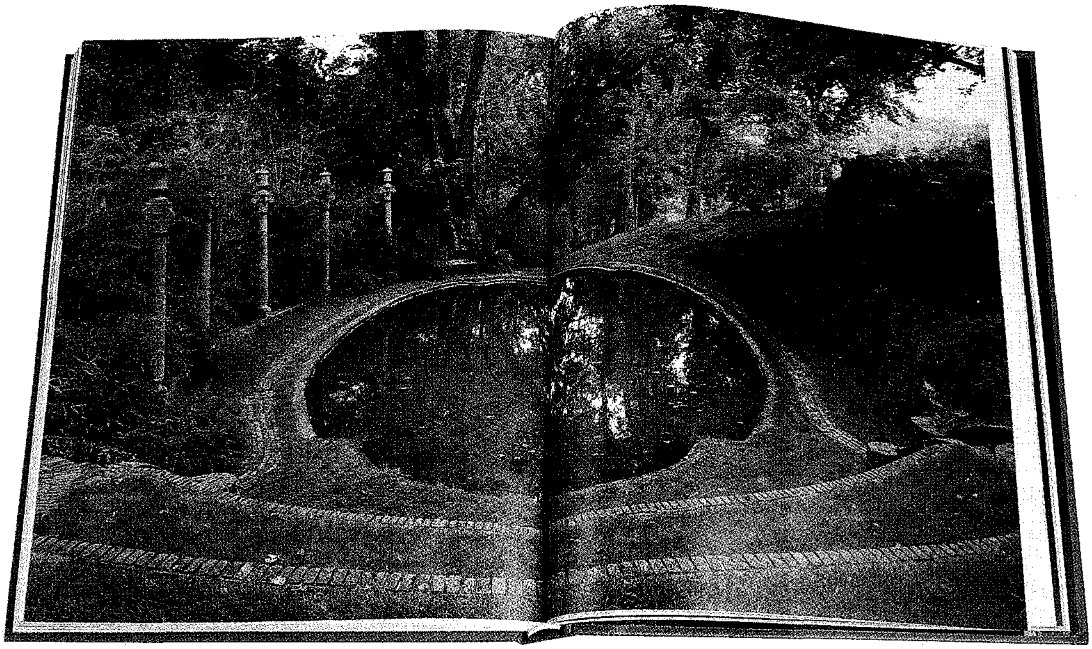

cocktail parties
with a twist
DRINKS + FOOD + STYLE
ALEXANDRA and ELIOT ANGLE of L.A.'s Aqua Vitae
photography by ERIKA McCONNELL

COCKTAIL PARTIES WITH A TWIST, by Alexandra and Eliot Angle (Stewart, Tabori & Chang; $30).

PERFECT FOR: Twenty- or thirtysomethings who are growing out of parties with pretzels, nachos, and bottles of Corona in the tub.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The book's authors, owners of L.A.'s sought-after caterer Aqua Vitae, offer all the advice you'll need to put together a stylish cocktail party along with recipes for pretty drinks and canapés. There's something for every occasion, from a "Surprise Birthday Soirée" to "Romantic Cocktails for Two."

WHAT ELSE: Tips on lighting, flower arrangements, and etiquette.

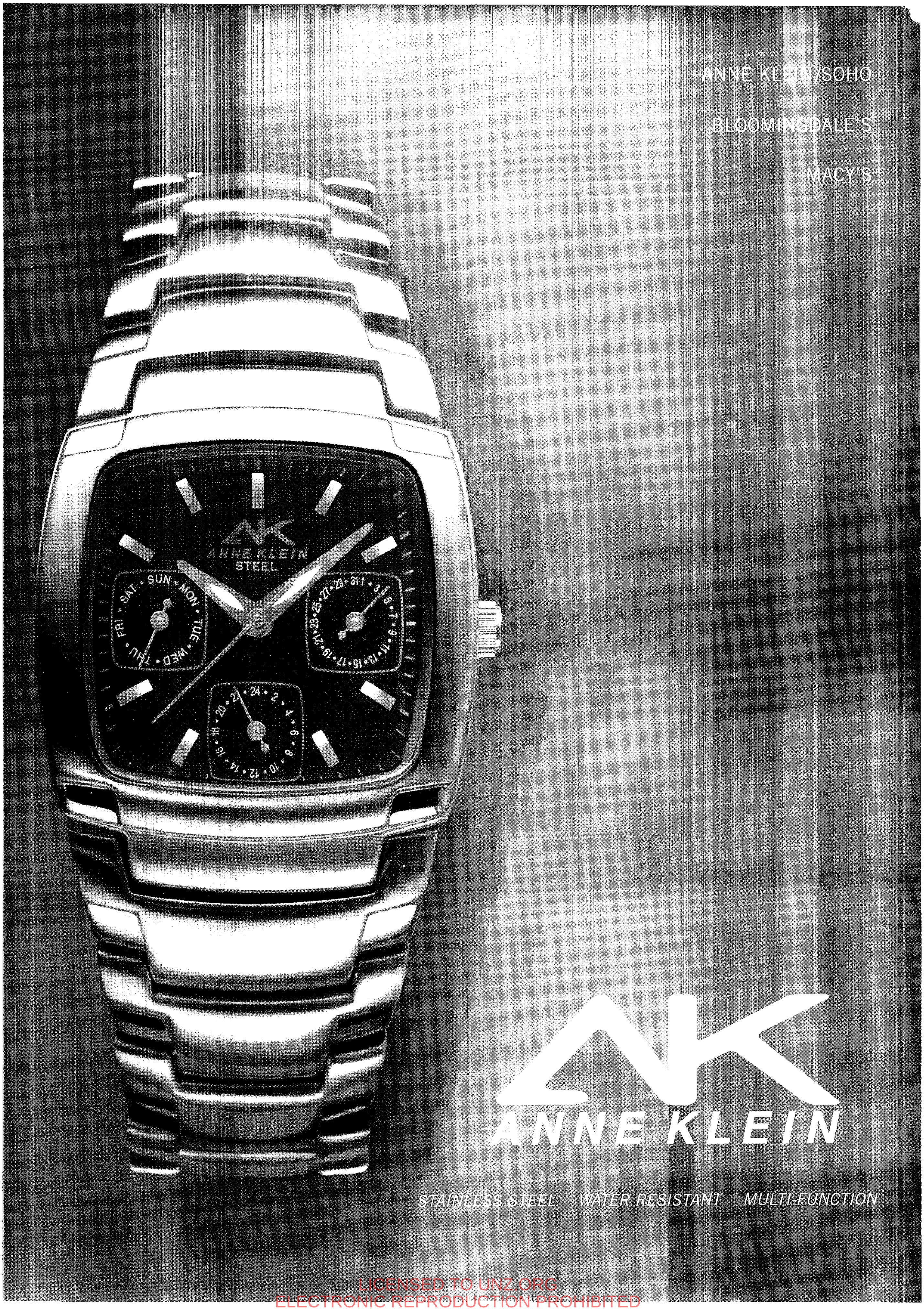


GROUNDS FOR PLEASURE: FOUR CENTURIES OF THE AMERICAN GARDEN, by Denise Otis (Abrams; $75).

PERFECT FOR: Avid gardeners and budding landscape designers.

WHY WE LOVE IT: The beautifully photographed book showcases—and inspires readers with—a wide range of styles, from traditional American gardens such as Middleton Place in South Carolina (1741) to modern wonders like the Donnell Garden in Sonoma (1948).

WHAT ELSE: Photographs are supplemented by archival images, drawings based on archaeological excavations, and old maps.


ANNE KLEIN/SOHO
BLOOMINGDALE'S
MACY'S
AK
ANNE KLEIN
STEEL
SAT SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI
AK
ANNE KLEIN
STAINLESS STEEL
WATER RESISTANT
MULTI-FUNCTION

KIDS *Presents from 3 to 12 [illegible] would make their holidays great.*

What do children want? We asked a whole slew of 'em what they hope to find under the Christmas tree, Hanukkah bush, Kwanzaa mkeka. Certain themes emerged—did someone mention Yu-Gi-Oh! cards?—and to paraphrase Arthur Godfrey, some kids say the darnedest things. By Sara Cardace and Jada Yuan

ALL I WANT FOR...

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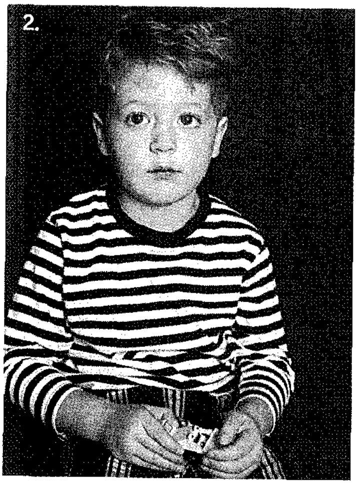

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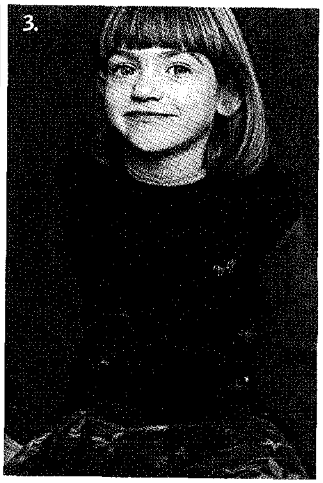

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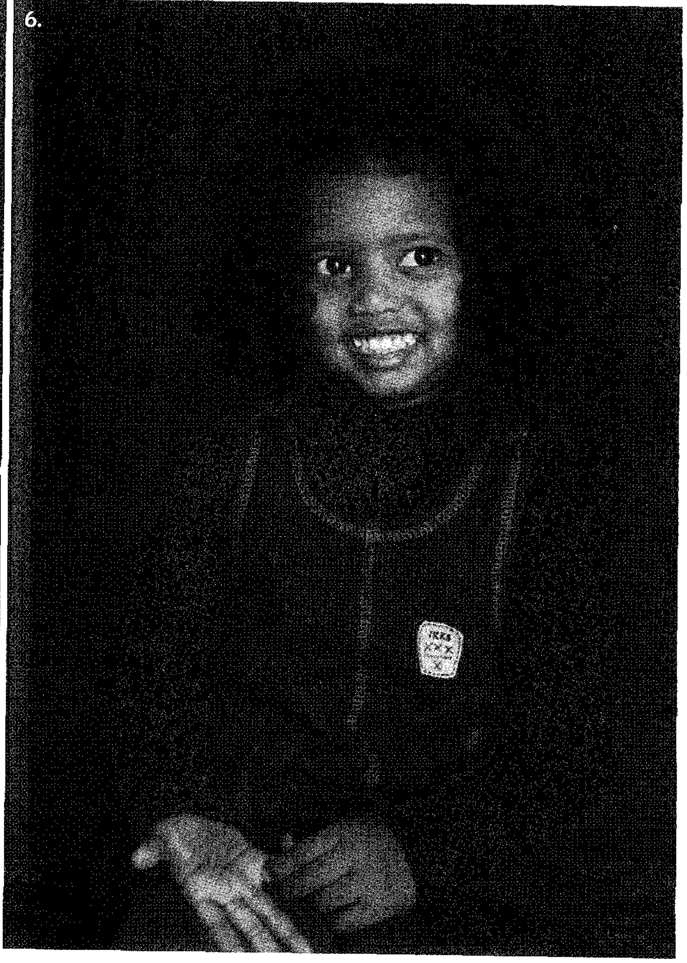

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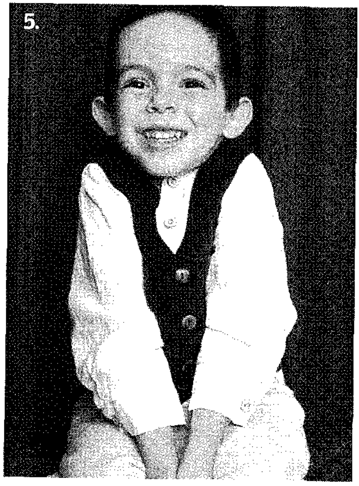


1. Nicole Yu, 3
- A computer game.
- A Barbie.
- "Santa! Oh, a Santa doll."

2. Thomas Godwin, 3
- "A drawer."
- "I want to walk to the bus stop on my own."
- "A Playmobil hospital. They have stretchers and doctors and nurses. I want to be a doctor."

3. Olivia Katz, 4
- A computer.
- A Barbie.
- A doll house for the Barbie.

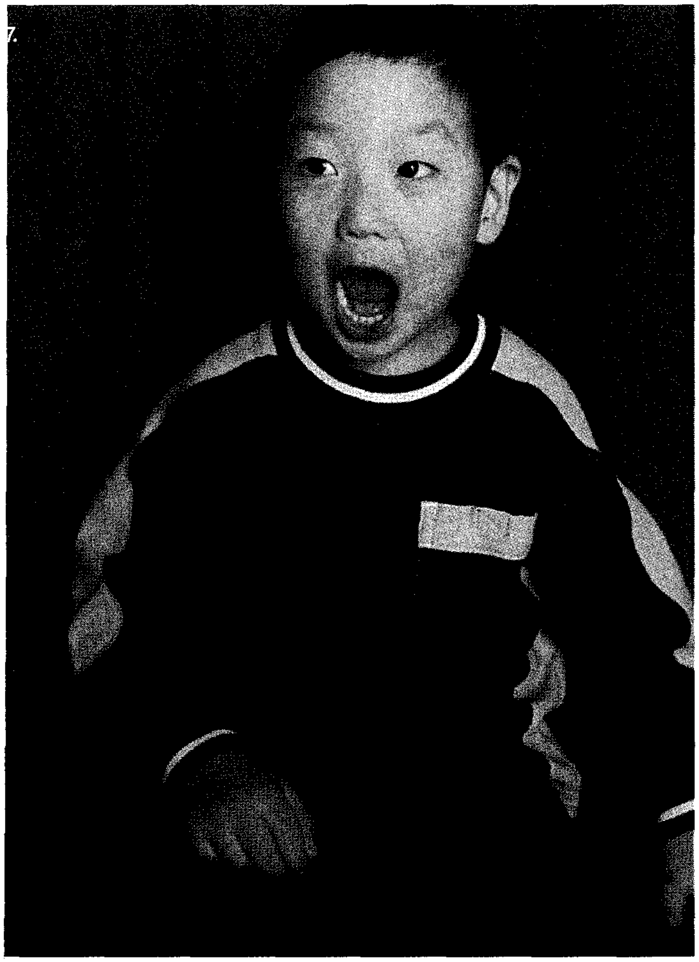
4. Zachary Hirsch, 3
- Spider-Man Spray Webs.
- Matchbox Carwash.
- A Tyco motorcycle.

5. Sam Kaufman, 4
- Chicken Dance Elmo.
- Superman, " 'cause he's for boys."
- A SpongeBob SquarePants "that can walk." (N.B.: This doesn't exist.)

6. Tsion Syoum, 3
- "A puppy, red, as big as me."
- "A tall cat."
- "A bicycle with three wheels. Pink."

PHOTOGRAPHED BY NOAH SHELDON & KATE LAC

7.



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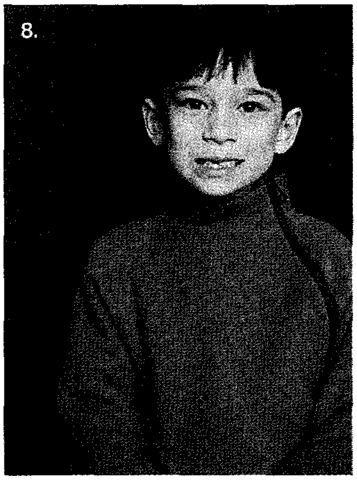

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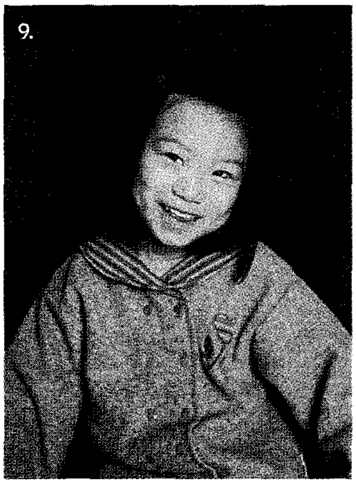

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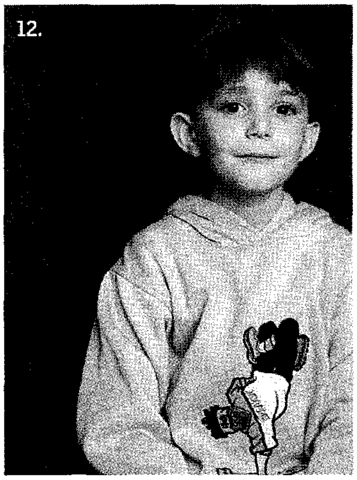


13.

14.

15.

7. Westley Park-Kouh, 3
- K'NEX Burn Out Radio Control car set.
- Tonka Junior Town Garage Playset.
- Power Rangers Deluxe Isis Command Center.

8. Jonathan Bleiberg, 5
- "Playmobil Airport. It's the whole airport. It's got a place for the bags and garages for the planes, but it doesn't have runways."
- Playmobil airplane.
- Lite-Brite Cube.

9. Cary Saito, 5
- "Sunflowers in a pot that I can water every day."
- "A purple lava lamp as big as me."
- "A glow pen. It's a pen that glows. I want green."
- "Shoes—the ones my sister has."
- "A dog stuffed animal. A soft one, like my sister has."

10. Clara Siegmund, 6
- "I wish I could ask for another bike because when I got my bike last year, I heard Santa Claus, and this time I want to get up and see him! I don't want the bike. I just want to see Santa."
- American Girl clothes. "Mine's name is Josefina and she comes from New Mexico. I lost her top at my cousin's house. She still has her skirt."
- The fifth Harry Potter book. "I've been waiting for a year. It's really hard."

11. Paul-Michael Wayans, 6
- "A training motorcycle. It looks like a Kawasaki. It's got gas and you can actually ride it. If you want to go speedy, you can go speedy, but if you don't want to go speedy, you don't have to."
- Transformer Robots.

12. Gabriel Rosen, 5
- Nintendo GameCube.
- GameBoy Advance.
- Galidor for GameBoy Advance. "It's just a game, but it's *cool*."

13. Jared Hoffman, 8
- "G.I. Joe vs. Cobra. It's a bad guy. He tries to take over the world."
- "A trip to the *Queen Mary* in California. In 1934 it was an ocean liner, but it's now a hotel. It's really scary because—get this—I read in a magazine that ghosts, one in thirties garb and one in sixties garb, appear near the swimming pool where they drowned."

14. Lily Wittrock, 8
- "A golden retriever. I've been waiting, like, three years!"
- Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movies.
- Jewelry. "I like dressing up in my room and pretending I'm a fancy lady. When my friends come over, we have tea parties."
- Boxcar Children books.

15. Ben Dougherty, 7
- Yu-Gi-Oh! cards.
- Bionicles.
- A toy pirate ship.

16. Imani Yisrael-Spicer, 5
- Barbie Talking Townhouse.
- Sketchers 4 Wheelers.
- "A baby poodle, black and white. I saw someone walking a blue-and-white one to the bus."

17. Jack Smith Marooney, 6
- Yu-Gi-Oh! cards and a Yu-Gi-Oh! game.
- Harry Potter Legos.
- A chemistry set, "so I can learn different potions that explode and stuff."
- "A big robot that shoots an armadillo out of its leg. It's a Power Ranger thing."

18. Allison Snyder, 6
- GameBoy. "It seems weird that a girl would want a GameBoy because it's called Game*Boy*, but I'm not a girly girl."
- "My own telephone line."

19. Armen Spendjian, 7
- Lego Droid Starfighter set from *Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*. "It's a bad-guy ship, but it's really cool."

20. Karolyn Patterson, 7
- A horse. "I ride one at my aunt's house."
- "A bigger gymnastics bag."
- "A Spanish book because I'm studying it in school, and a French tape because I want to learn."

21. Natalie Avery-Kalfus, 7
- Ello. "It's a building set. You build scenes, fantasy worlds, like a fairy tale."
- "A Basilisk snake from *Harry Potter*."
- "A trip to Israel. I'd live on a kibbutz."

22. Anthea Levi, 9
- Clothes, shirts.
- "A stuffed animal, a pink bunny."
- Earrings.

23. Gracie Gardner, 9
- A soccer goalpost "so I can play at my country house."
- A sketching kit with a lot of pencils.
- Chapter books. "I like *21 Balloons* and *The Witches* and *Tuck Everlasting*."

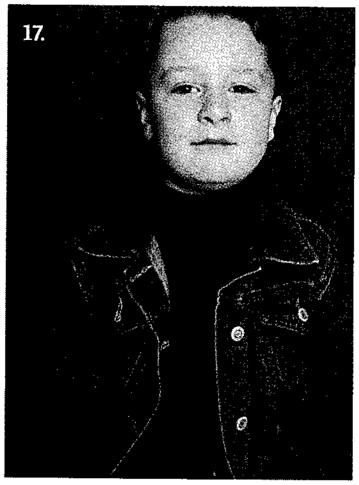
24. Stephen Profeta, 9
- *Big Fat Liar* video.
- Backyard Baseball 2003 computer game. "It has all the players."
- A CD player "so I can listen to Beatles music."

25. Ella Park-Chan, 8
- A dog.
- A cotton-candy machine.
- "A surprise."

26. Joseph Lebowitz, 7
- World peace. "We're studying it."
- "A kitty with a white stomach and white paws and a white neck and gray on the rest."
- "To learn to surf. I'm not a thing person."

27. Grace Haser, 10
- Mystery and adventure books. Harry Potter, Nancy Drew, Artemis Fowl.
- Clothes from Abercrombie & Fitch.
- Art kit for painting.

16.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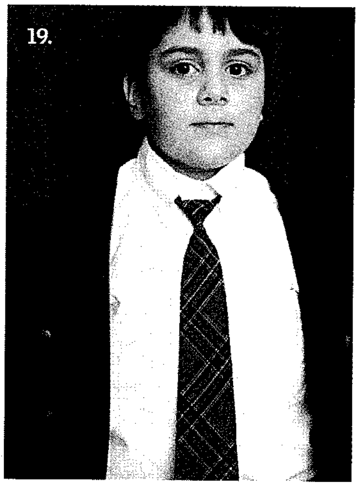
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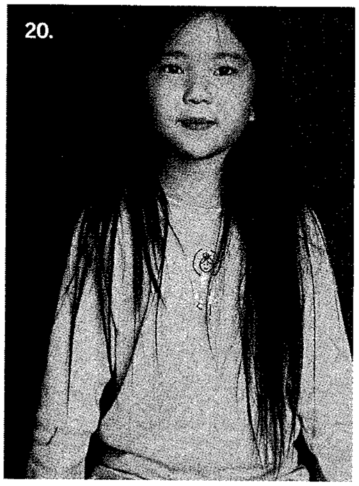
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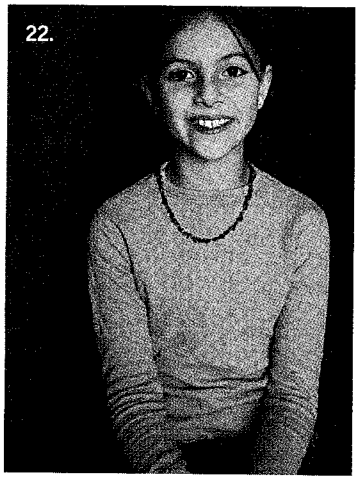
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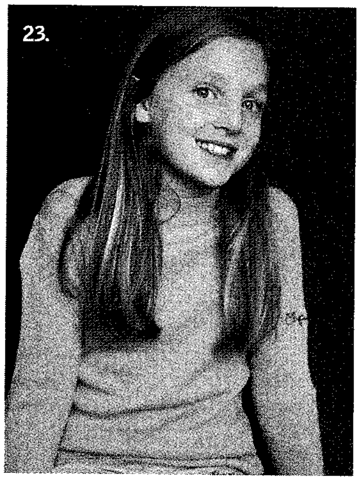
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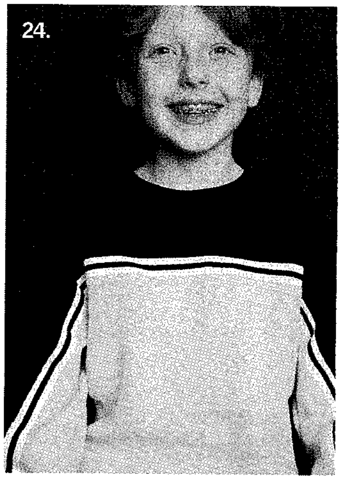
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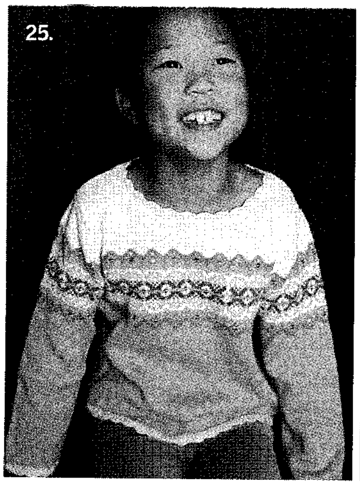
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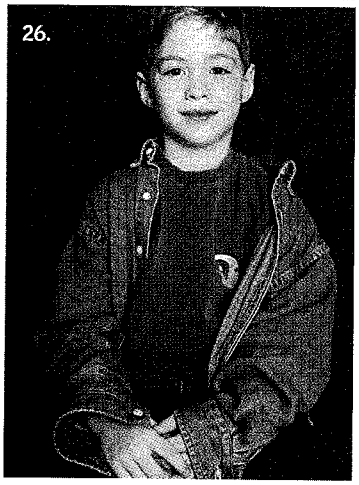
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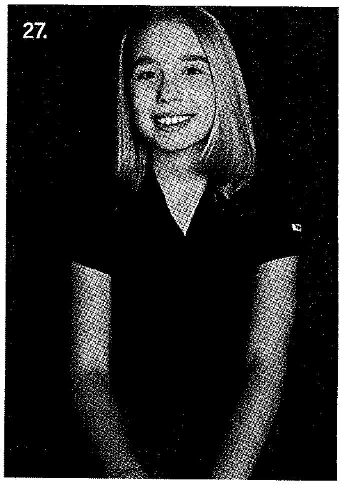
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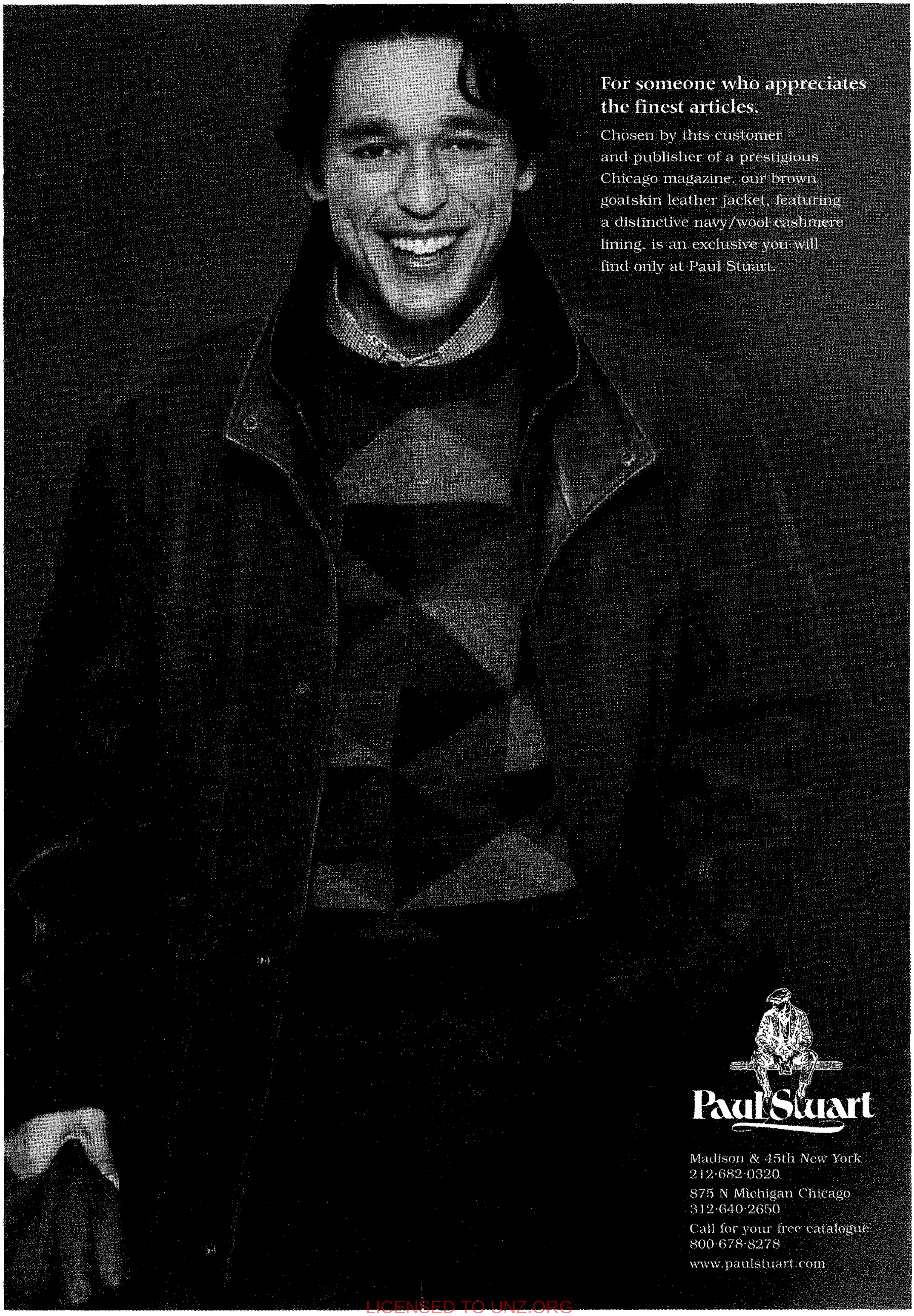

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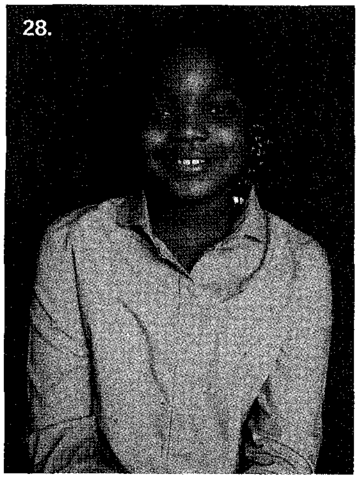
28.



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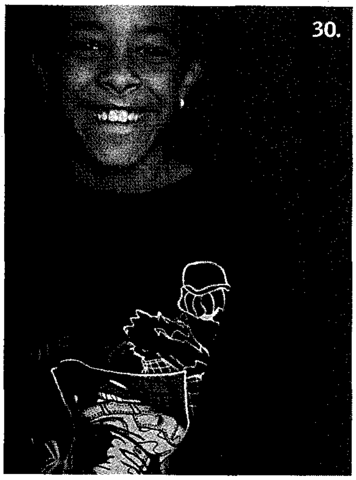

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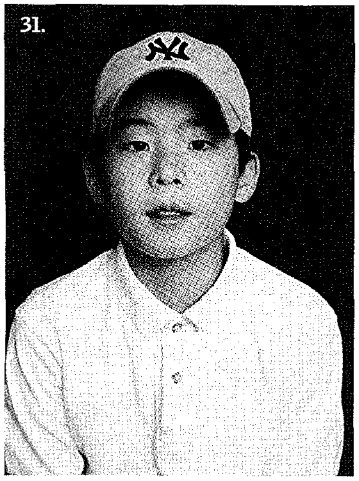

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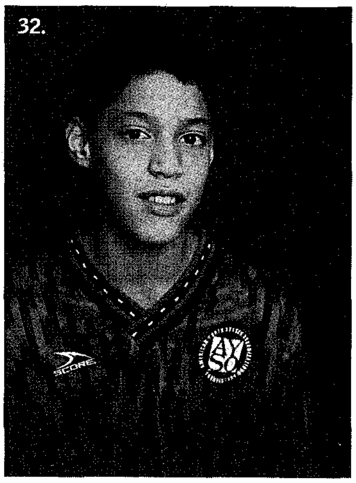

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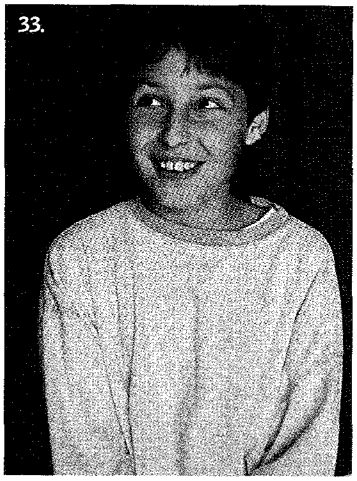

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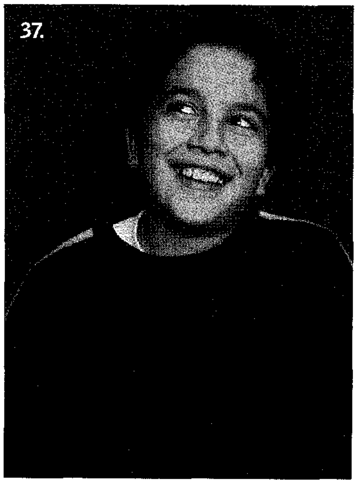

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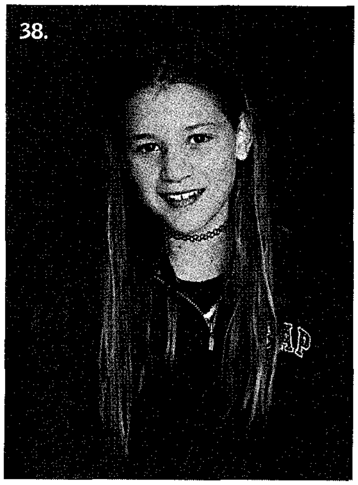


39.

28. Chelsi Thomas, 9
- PlayStation 2. "I want the Kingdom Hearts game. You contr characters from movies and you fight with them."
- Rocket Power for GameBoy Advan
- A gumball-making machine.
- A digital camera.

29. Annie Auchincloss, 12
- A big shopping spree.
- Concert tickets. "I like Jennifer Lo and Pink, but I *love* Avril Lavigne."
- A no-homework night. "A month would be great."
- Yankees tickets and Liberty tickets

30. Denzel Jacobs, 10
- Yu-Gi-Oh! cards.
- PlayStation 2 games.
- "My own recording studio."
- New Jordans, "but my parents don want to pay $100 for sneakers."

31. Gen Katz, 11
- Yu-Gi-Oh! cards.
- Legos. "Challenging ones where yo control them from the computer."
- A computer with Pentium 2 or 4. "I can't use the software that mov the Legos on my computer now, s I just build them and wait."

32. Jacob Dannett, 11
- GameCube.
- "A book called *Hoot*."
- "A publisher. I write stories, mostly nonsense. I'm trying to write chap books now."

33. Jordan Samuel, 11
- PlayStation 2.
- Limp Bizkit and blink-182 CDs.
- Yu-Gi-Oh! cards.

34. Veronica Hoglund, 12
- Eminem concert tickets.
- Ultra Love jeans.
- A laptop.

35. Ashley Wayans, 9
- A white Barbie with a pink dress.
- *There's a Hamster in My Lunchbox* and other books by Susan Clymer.
- A new art kit. "I got a kit last year, but my brother and sister started using it. It only lasted two days. Everyone got to use it except me."

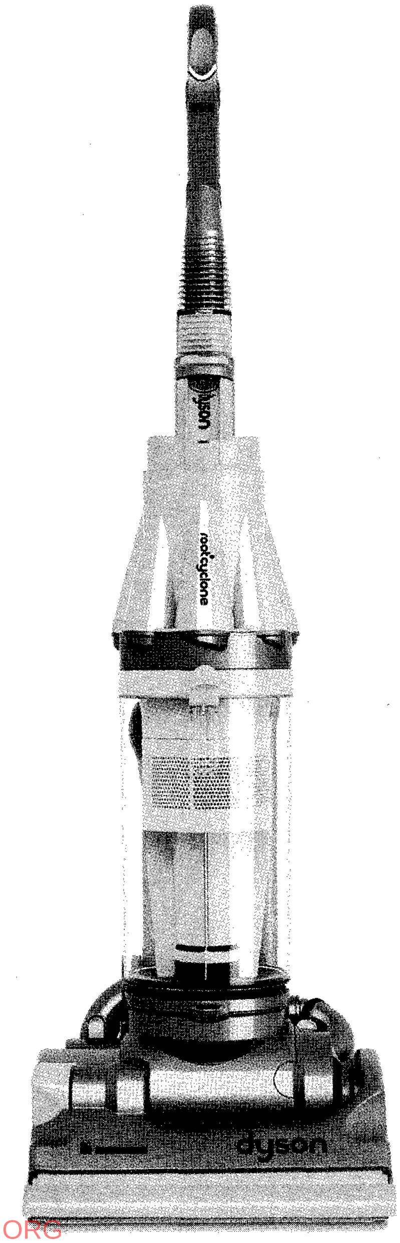
36. Katie Schwartz, 11
- Gift certificates to Barnes & Noble. "I want to have a library."
- *Mr. Deeds* and *Lord of the Rings* DVDs.
- Light blue Pumas with gel soles.

37. Zohran Mamdani, 11
- Books.
- FIFA 2003 and SimCity 3000 computer games.

38. Ivee Gedell, 12
- Another ferret.
- "A new wrist. I crashed into my sister when I was snowboarding."
- Christina Aguilera, the *8 Mile* soundtrack CDs.

39. Laura Profeta, 12
- A dog. "A small one that doesn't sh or bark too much and can live with our guinea pig and hamster."
- Avril Lavigne's CD.

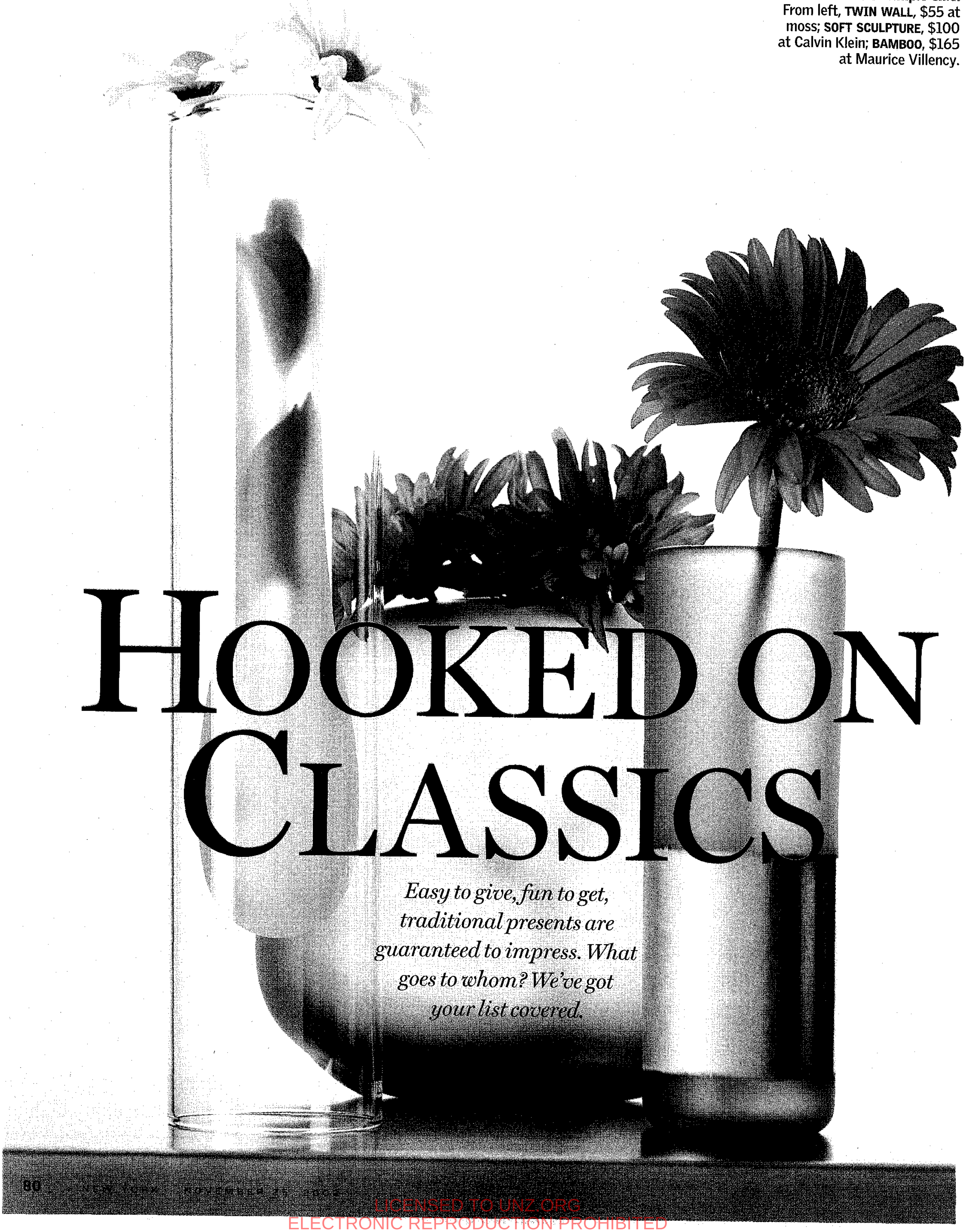
Unlike other vacuums, the suction power of a Dyson doesn't decline.



though manufacturers are reluctant to admit it, other vacuums on the market today ickly get clogged and lose suction. Not Dyson. In fact, after picking up just ten nces of dust, a Dyson has double the suction power of other vacuums. And now, s here in America. So, come see a Dyson today. It's the vacuum. Reinvented. r more, visit www.dyson.com. **Available now at The Terence Conran Shop.**

James Dyson

VASES *Flowers fade, but containers live forever. Here, the ones we'd want to hold on to.*



For the student of simple chic: From left, **TWIN WALL**, $55 at moss; **SOFT SCULPTURE**, $100 at Calvin Klein; **BAMBOO**, $165 at Maurice Villency.

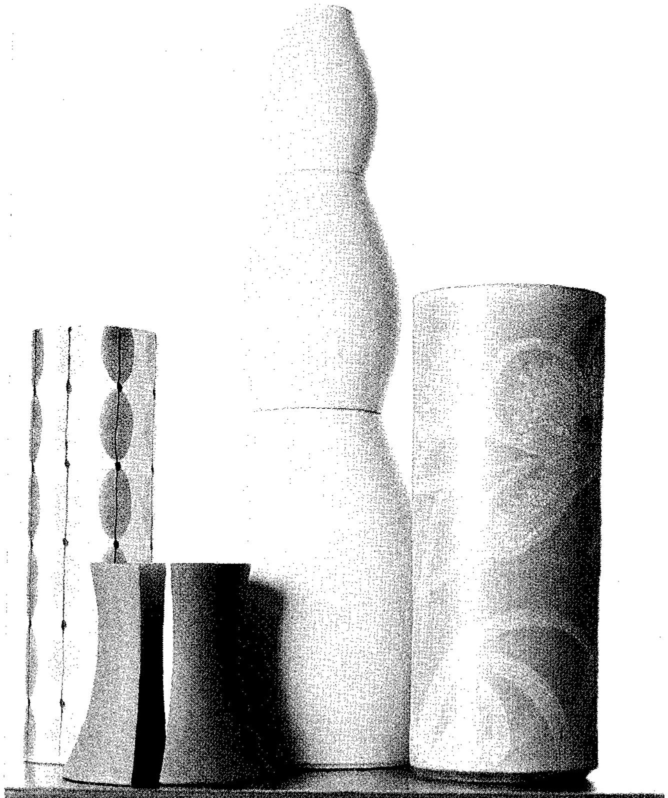
HOOKED ON CLASSICS

Easy to give, fun to get, traditional presents are guaranteed to impress. What goes to whom? We've got your list covered.

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

or the modernist who isn't afraid of color: From left, **REEN BAND GLASS**, $650 at Barneys New York; **JUPITER**, $130 at he MoMA Design Store; **JEWELS**, $100 at Villeroy & Boch.

For the drama queen: **KATHY ERTEMAN VASES**, $250 each at Barneys New York.



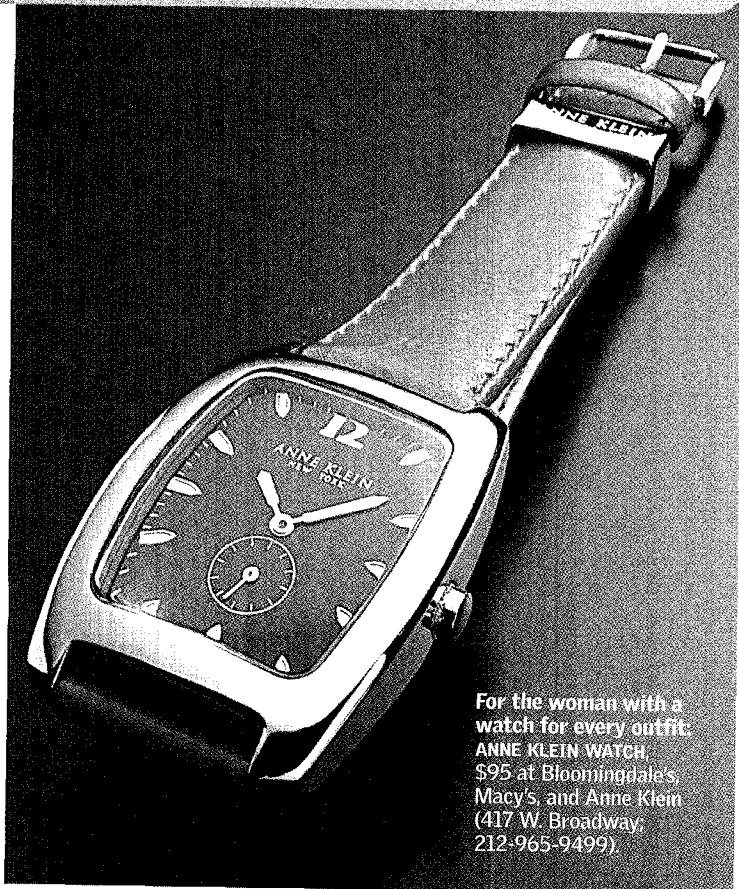
or the craft collector: From left, **DAVID BARTHOLD**, $120 at nvironment337; **DEMI**, $35 at the MoMA Design Store; **STACKING VASES**, 255 at Ligne Roset stores; **EVIA**, $365 at Armani Casa.

For the sculpture lover: From left, **BUDDING**, $298 at LePage New York; **INDIGO RED KIMONO**, $50 at ABC Carpet & Home; **UNTITLED BY MICHAEL ARAM**, $90 at Bloomingdale's.

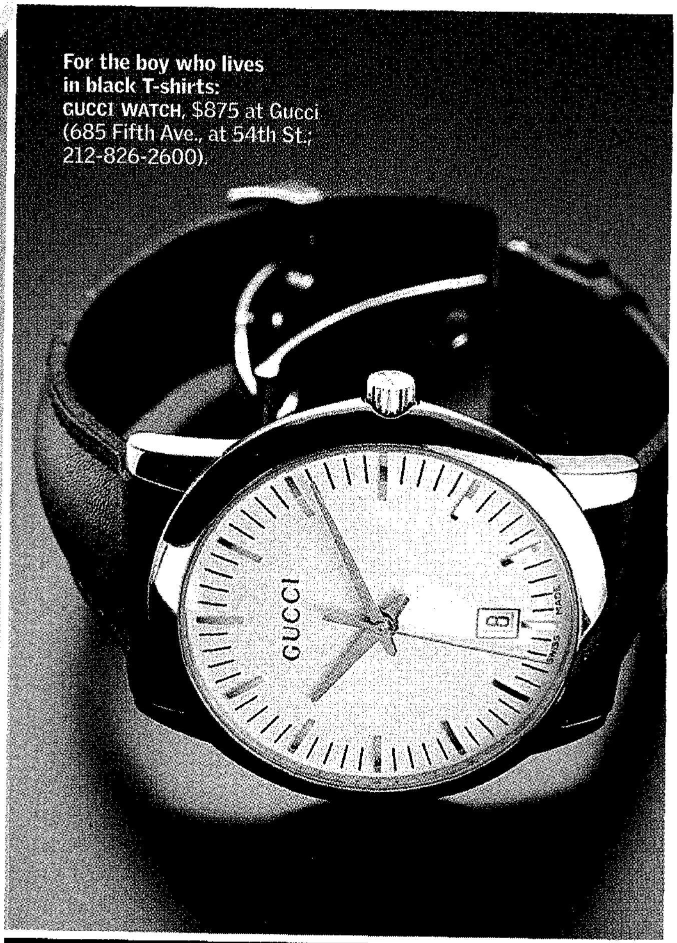
EDITED BY RIMA SUQI. PHOTOGRAPHED BY TED MORRISON.

WATCHES *From trendy [illegible]*

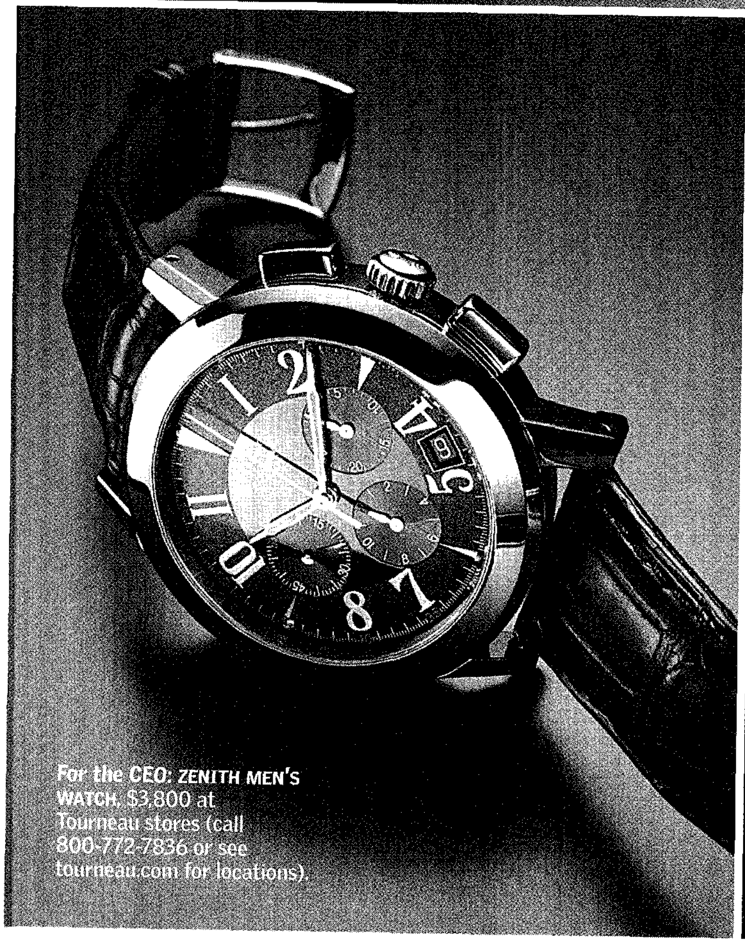
timeless chronographs, [illegible]


12
ANNE KLEIN
NEW YORK

For the woman with a watch for every outfit: **ANNE KLEIN WATCH**, $95 at Bloomingdale's, Macy's, and Anne Klein (417 W. Broadway; 212-965-9499).


GUCCI
8
SWISS MADE

For the boy who lives in black T-shirts: **GUCCI WATCH**, $875 at Gucci (685 Fifth Ave., at 54th St.; 212-826-2600).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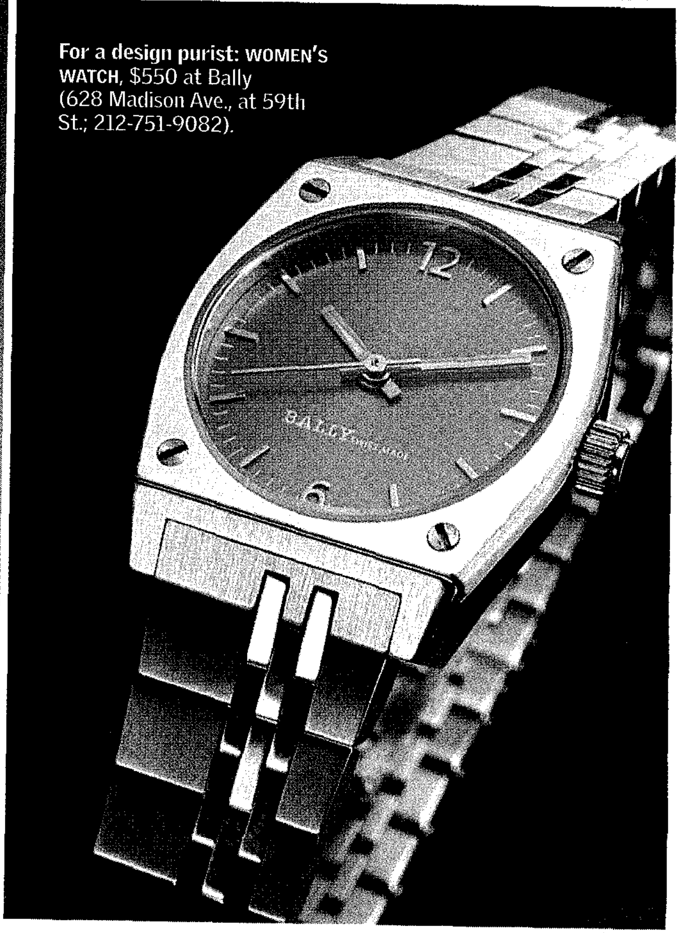
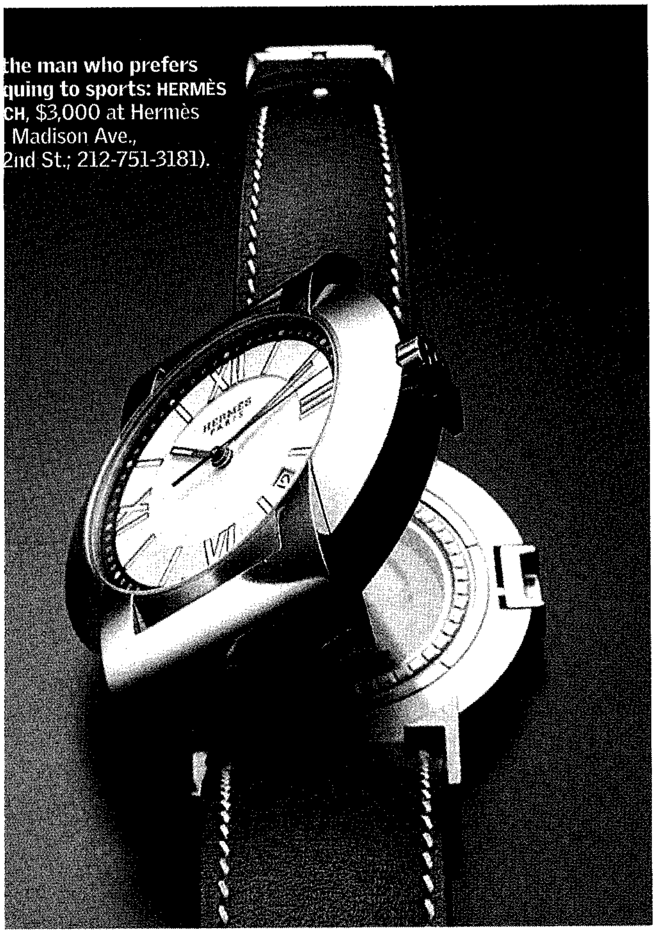
For the CEO: **ZENITH MEN'S WATCH**, $3,800 at Tourneau stores (call 800-772-7836 or see tourneau.com for locations).



For a design purist: **WOMEN'S WATCH**, $550 at Bally (628 Madison Ave., at 59th St.; 212-751-9082).

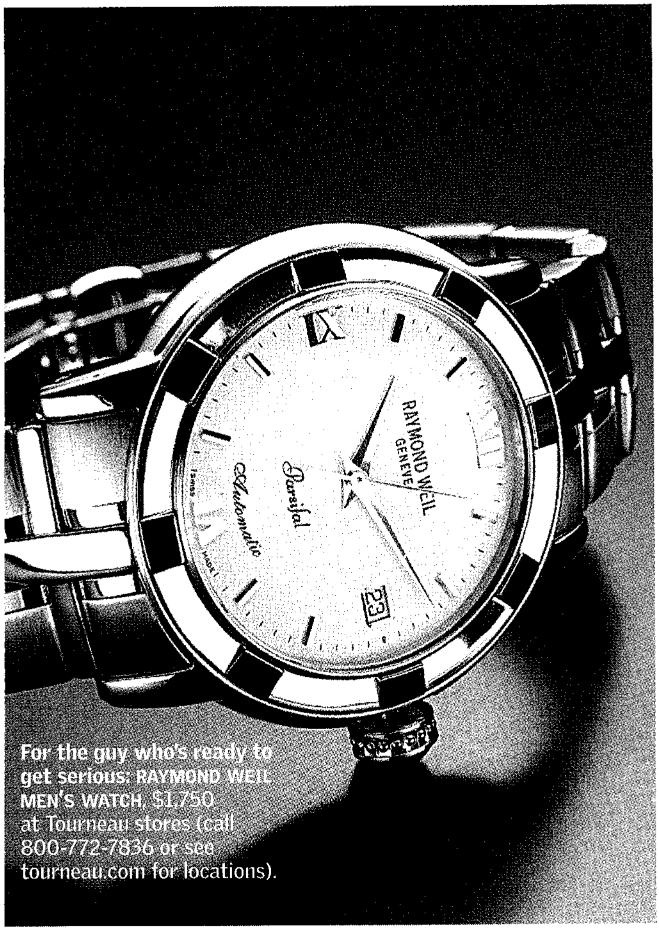
For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.


HERMES
PARIS

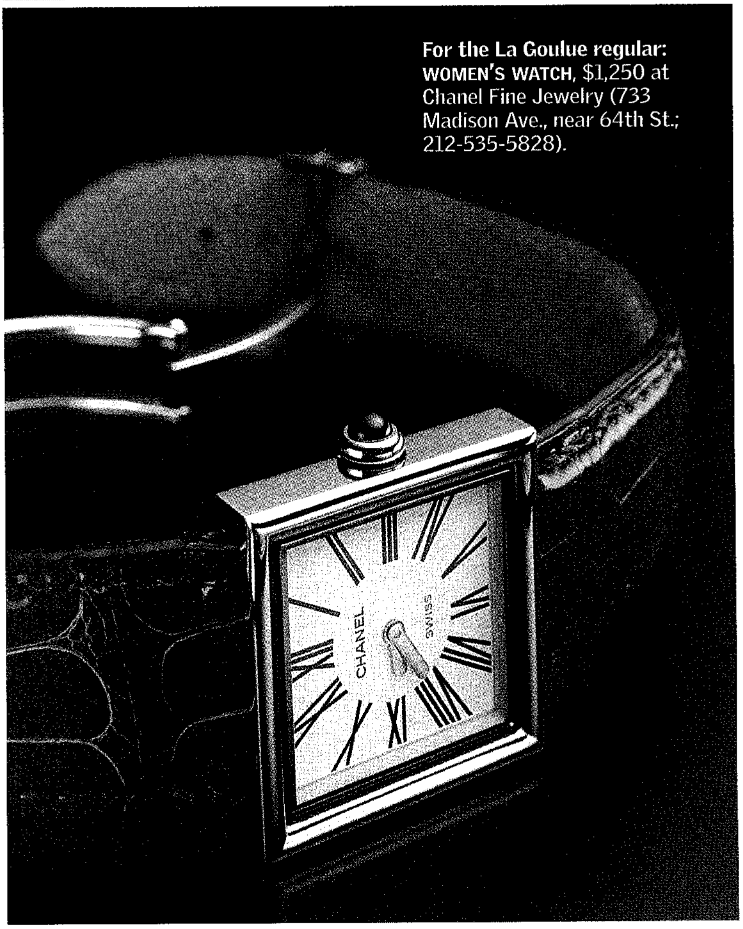
he man who prefers
quing to sports: **HERMÈS**
CH, $3,000 at Hermès
Madison Ave.,
2nd St.; 212-751-3181).

BEDAT & Co
GENEVE
No 7

For a woman who has all the swank classics: BEDAT & CO. WATCH, $2,500 at Saks Fifth Avenue and Tourneau stores (call 800-772-7836 or see tourneau.com for locations).


RAYMOND WEIL
GENEVE
Parsifal
Automatic
23

For the guy who's ready to get serious: RAYMOND WEIL MEN'S WATCH, $1,750 at Tourneau stores (call 800-772-7836 or see tourneau.com for locations).

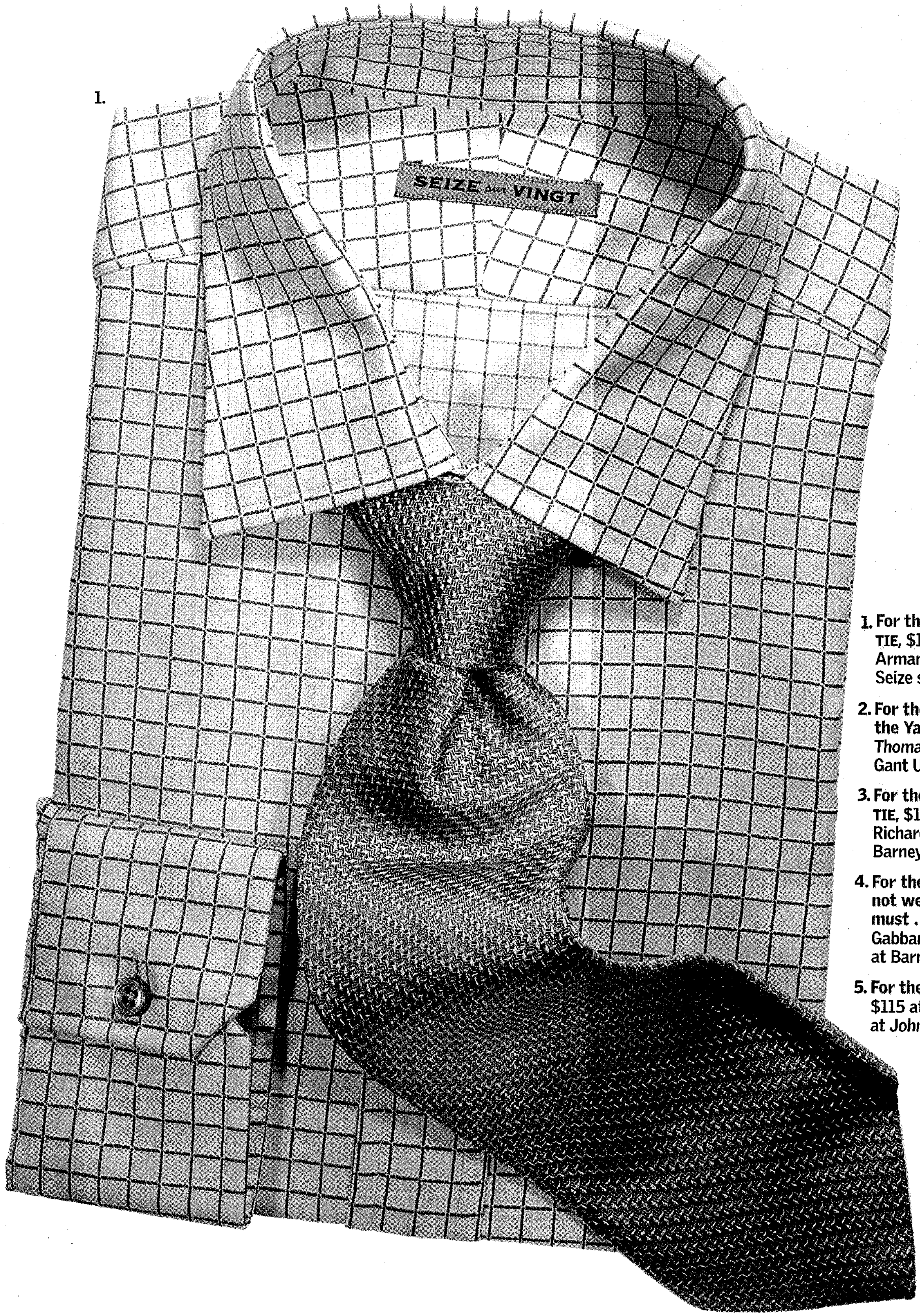

CHANEL
SWISS

For the La Goulue regular: WOMEN'S WATCH, $1,250 at Chanel Fine Jewelry (733 Madison Ave., near 64th St.; 212-535-5828).

EDITED BY SHYAMA PATEL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD PIERCE.

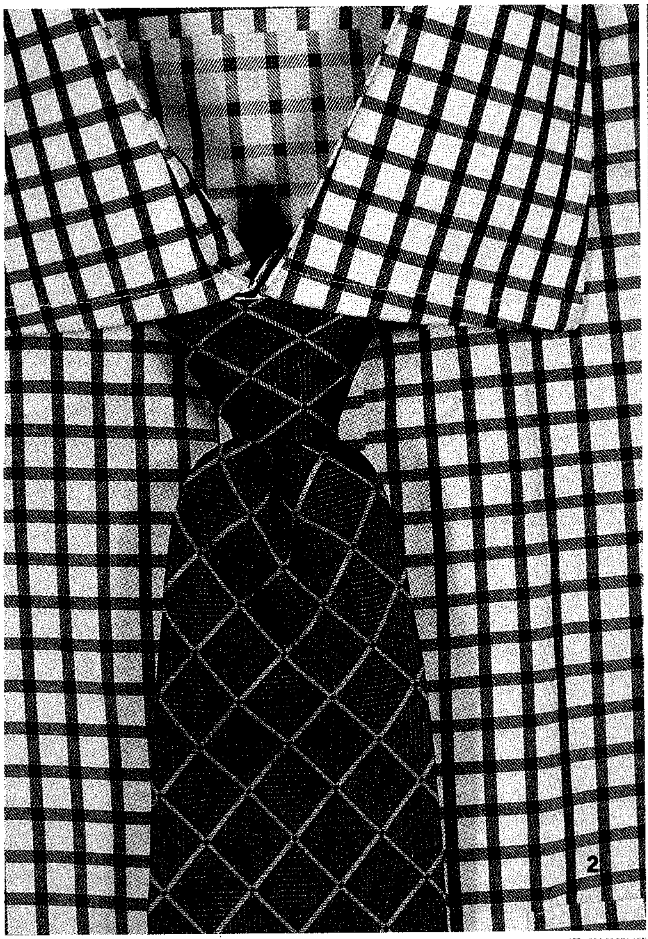
SHIRTS & TIES *Does menswear get you all tied up? Here, five suitable combinations.*

1.



1. **For the power player:** **TIE**, $135 at Giorgio Armani. **SHIRT**, $180 at Seize sur Vingt.
2. **For the man who lunches at the Yale Club:** **TIE**, $85 at *Thomas Pink*. **SHIRT**, $99 at Gant USA stores.
3. **For the unashamed dandy:** **TIE**, $120 at Paul Smith. Richard James **SHIRT**, $225 at Barneys New York.
4. **For the hipster who'd rather not wear a tie, but if he must . . .** **TIE**, $89 at Dolce & Gabbana. Prada **SHIRT**, $395 at Barneys New York.
5. **For the literary lion:** **TIE**, $115 at Hermès. **SHIRT**, $225 at John Varvatos.

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.



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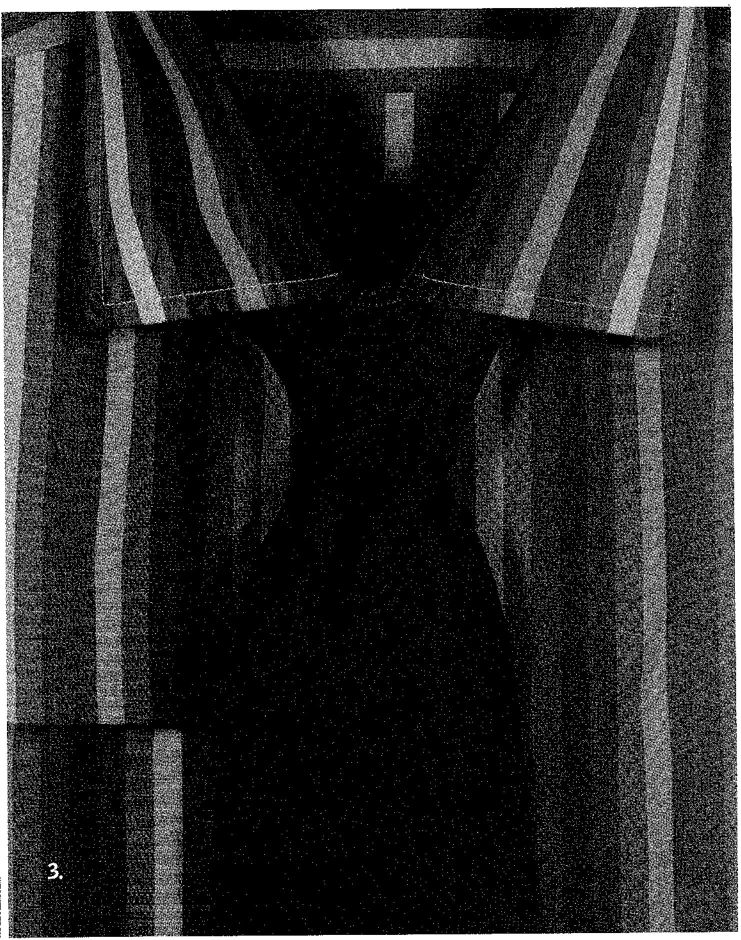

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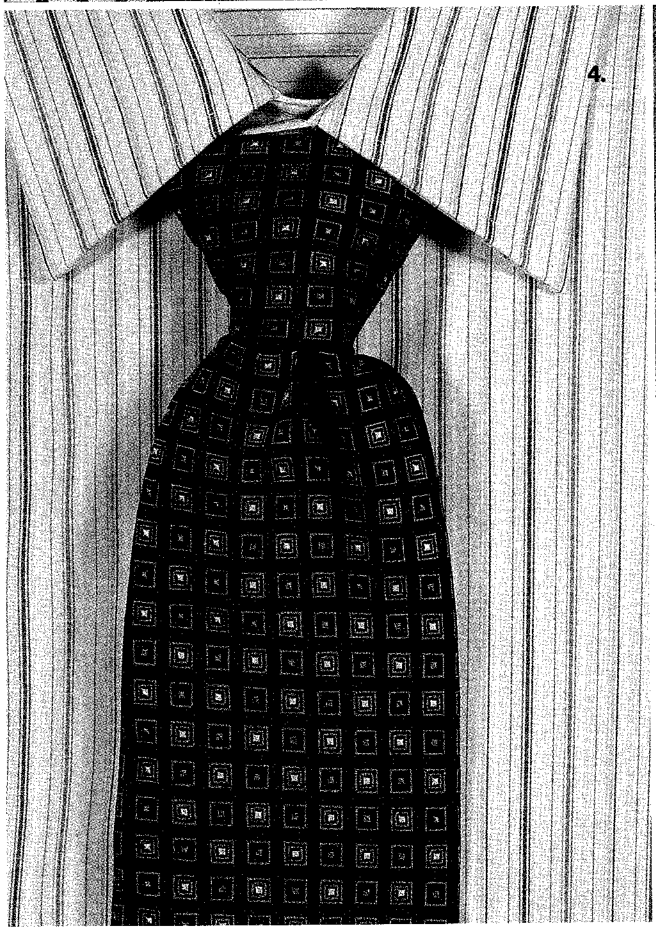

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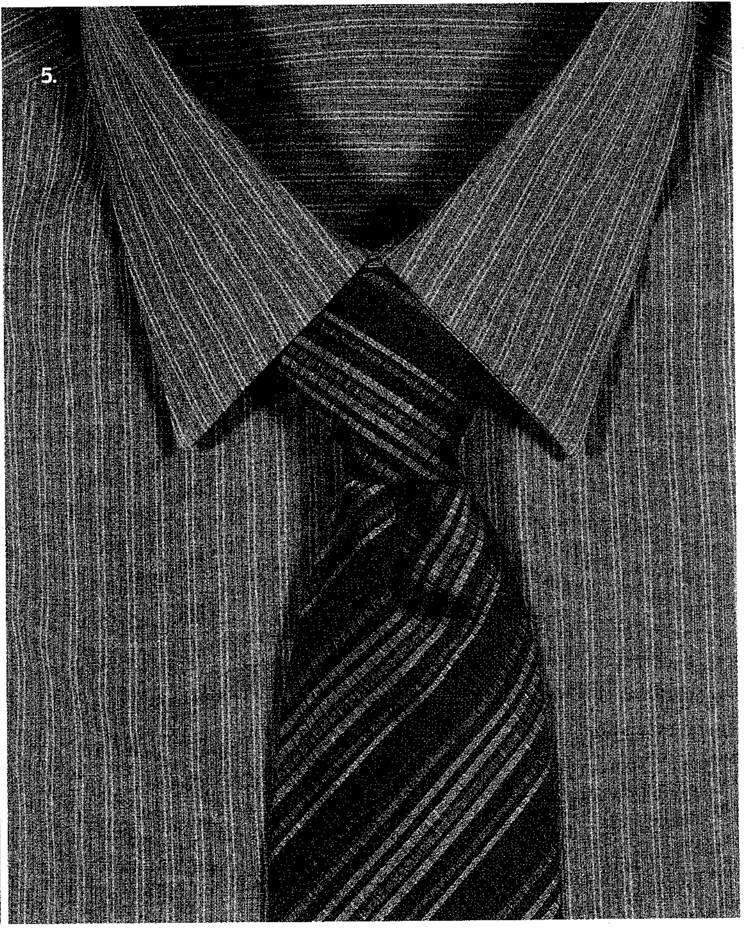


5.

EDITED BY SHYAMA PATEL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHAGO AKII-BUA AND BRIAN JONES.

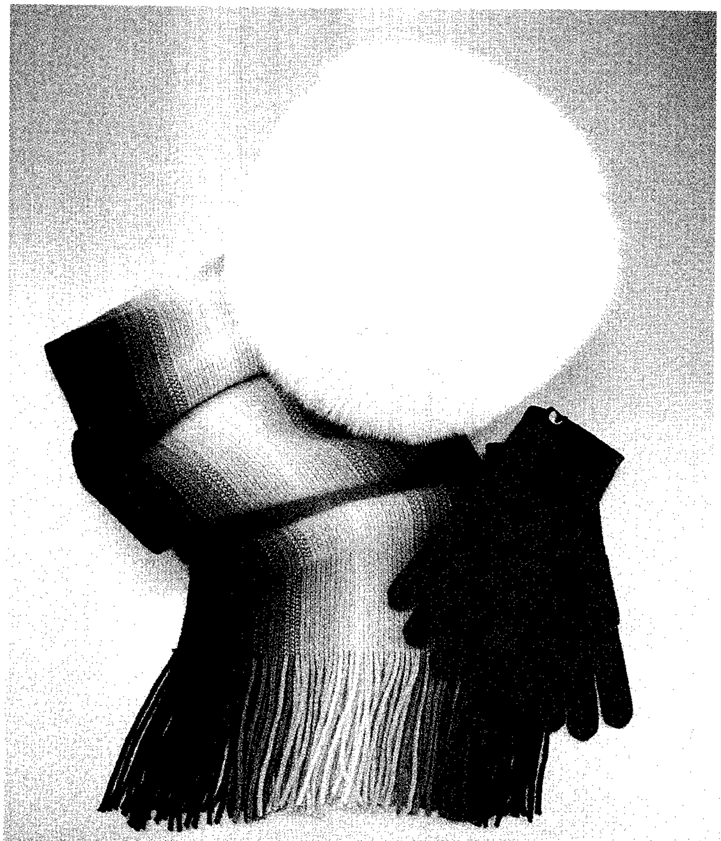
THE FUZZY STUFF [illegible]

your nearest with a new hat, scarf and gloves.

For store locations, see A–Z, pag

For the man who's tweedy but not twee: **SHEARLING HAT**, $129 at Paul Stuart. **CASHMERE SCARF**, $395, and **LEATHER GLOVES**, $205, at A. Testoni.

For the girl who likes things pink but not precious: **WOOL HAT**, $35 at Banana Republic stores. **WOOL SCARF**, $29.50 at Gap stores. **MITTENS**, $225 at Bergdorf Goodman.



For a foxy lady: **FOX-FUR HAT**, $598 at Coach stores. **DRAKES WOOL SCARF**, $125 at Barneys New York. White + Warren **LEATHER-TRIMMED WOOL GLOVES**, $86 at Henri Bendel.

For a guy who lives in his 501s: **WOOL HAT**, $39.50 at Gant stores. **WOOL SCARF**, $68 at Banana Republic stores. **CASHMERE GLOVES**,$98 at DKNY stores.

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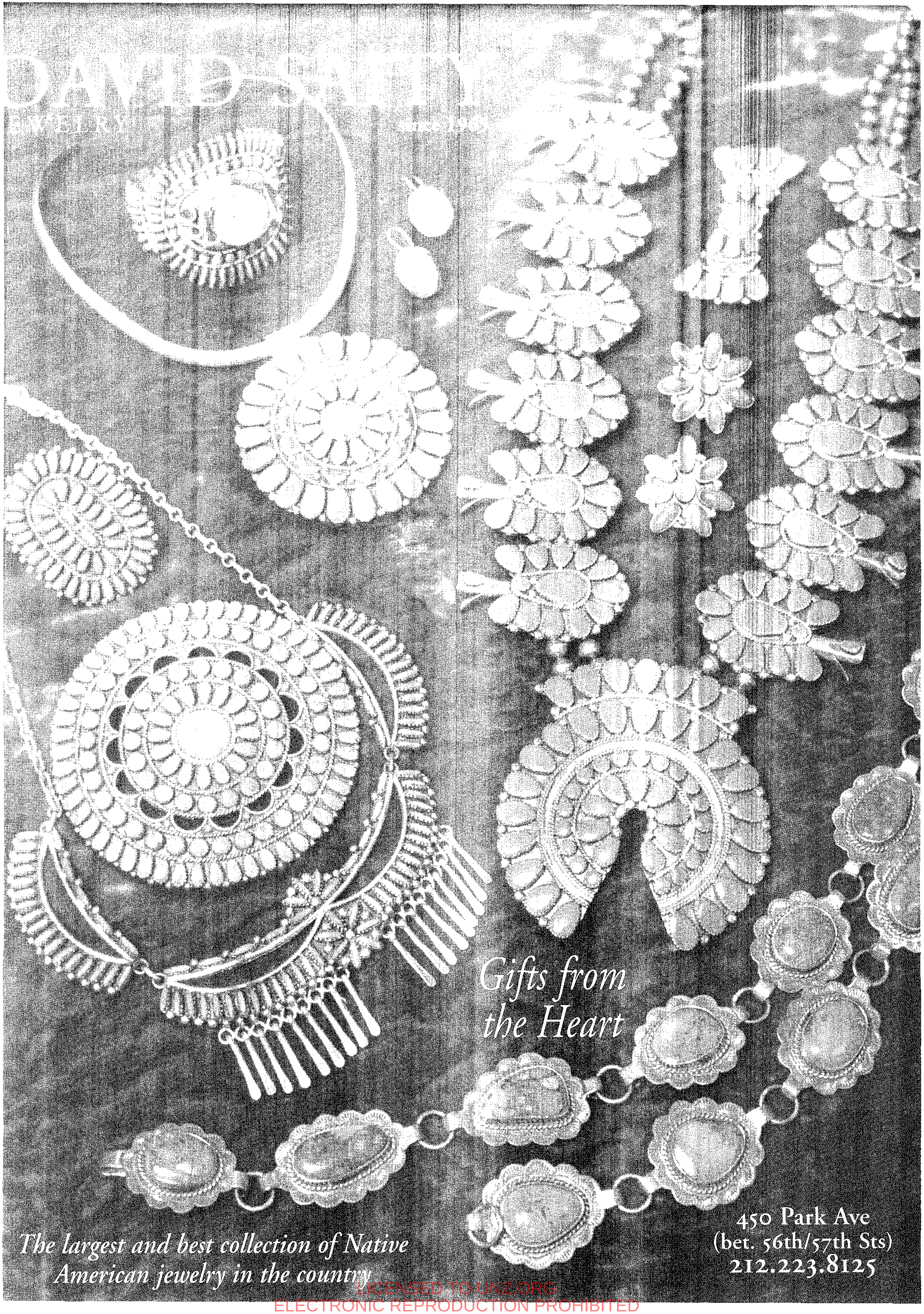
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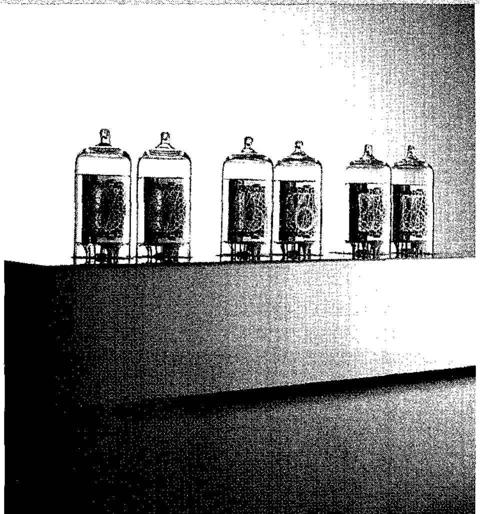
(bet. 56th/57th Sts)
212.223.8125

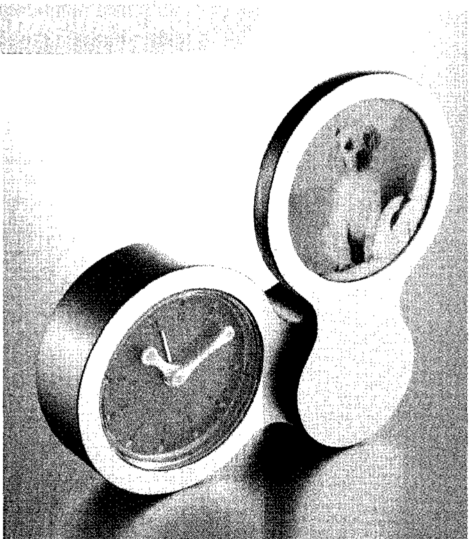
ALARM CLOCKS

[illegible]

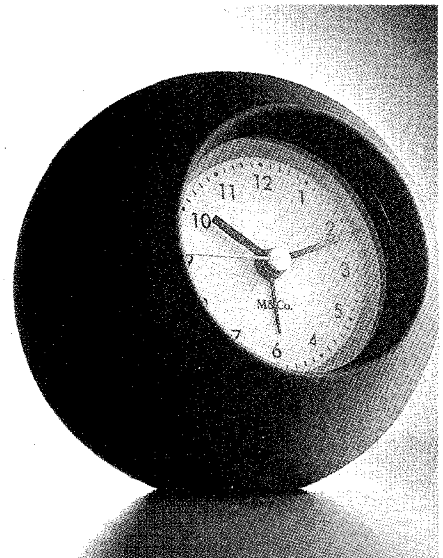
For store locations, see A–Z, page



For mad scientists: NIXIE CLOCK, $345 at Mxyplyzyk.

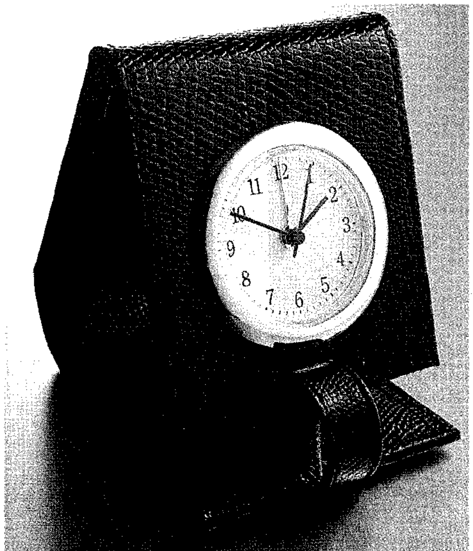


For frequent fliers: MADE BY HUMANS TRAVEL ALARM CLOCK with photo frame, $28 at Random Accessories.

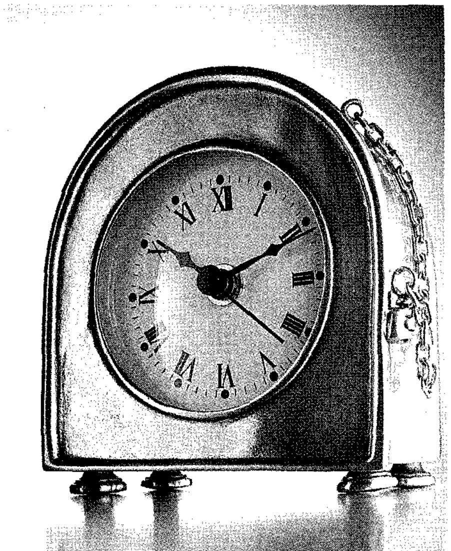


For creative types: M&CO. ZUPA CLOCK, $55 at MoMA Design Store.

For speed racers and Deco freaks: DASHBOARD CLOCK, $59 at Restoration Hardware.



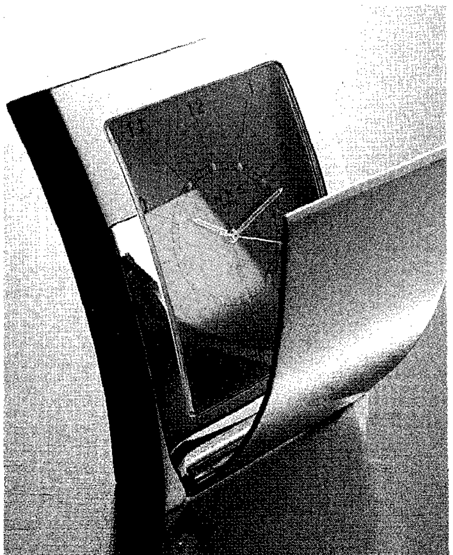
For guys who prefer clips to billfolds: LIZARD ALARM CLOCK, $25 at Bombay Company stores.



For traditionalists: MATCH PEWTER TABLE CLOCK, $279 at Distant Origin.

For hipsters who flip for fluorescence: LEXON CLOCK RADIO with voice recorder that lets users record their alarms, $55 at Mxyplyzyk.

For tweedy, tasseled-loafer types: ALARM CLOCK WITH LEATHER CASE, $98 at Paul Stuart.



For modernists who travel light: ORANGE FLAP CLOCK, $120, at Links of London.

EDITED BY RIMA SUQI. PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD PIER

Steven®

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SHOES BY STEVE MADDEN

SUNDAY'S BEST *Swaddle your family in the season's dreamiest sleepwear*

For store locations, see A–Z, page

For your all-American boy: TOMMY HILFIGER **COTTON ROBE**, $80 at Macy's. **COTTON PAJAMAS**, $70 at Brooks Brothers stores. ADIDAS **FLIP-FLOPS**, $25 at Athlete's Foot stores.

For the babe of the boudoir: **COTTON-POLYESTER ROBE**, $640 at Bergdorf Goodman. **SLIP**, $29.50 at Victoria's Secret stores. **LUREX SLIPPERS**, $76 at Coach stores.

For the woman who takes nesting seriously: **CASHMERE ROBE**, $375 at ABH Design. DKNY **COTTON PAJAMAS**, $58 at Bloomingdale's. **SILK SLIPPERS** (sold with case), $50 at Shanghai Tang.

For the man who doesn't just dress for dinner: **COTTON ROBE**, $88 at Brooks Brothers. NAUTICA **TOP AND BOTTOMS**, $29.50 each at Macy's. ARMAND DIRADOURIAN **CASHMERE SLIPPERS**, $195 at Barneys New York.

EDITED BY SHYAMA PATEL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY TED MORRIS

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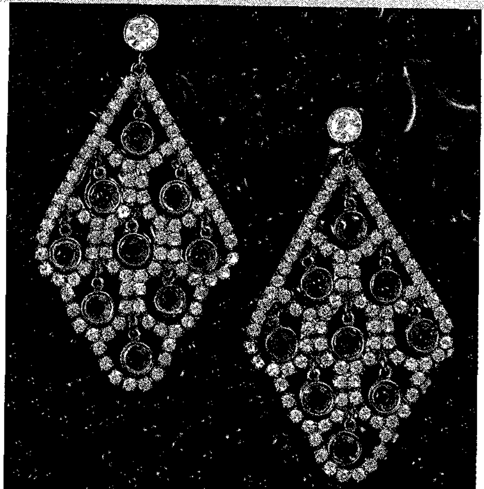
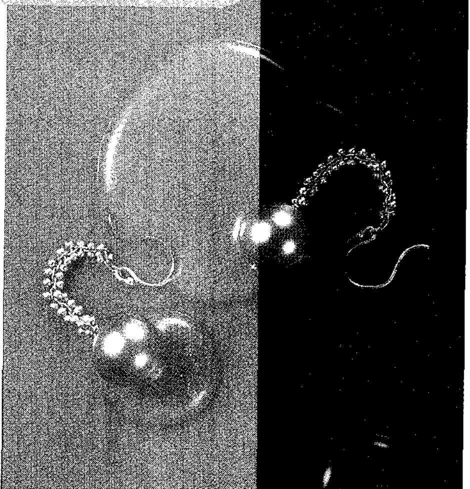
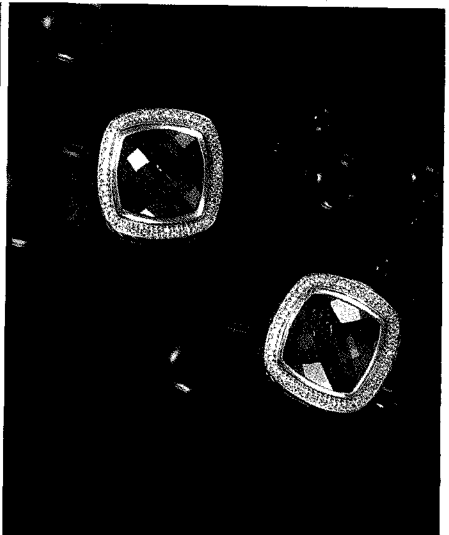
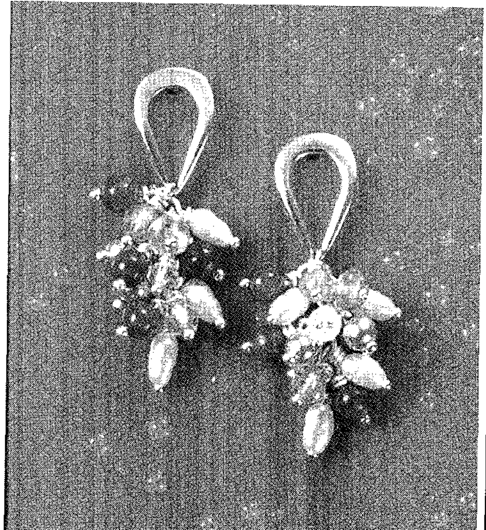
EARRINGS *It only goes to show that the smallest boxes often hold the most precious presents*

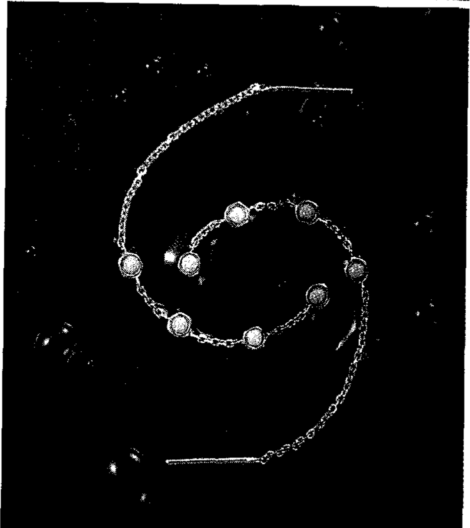
For store locations, see A–Z, page

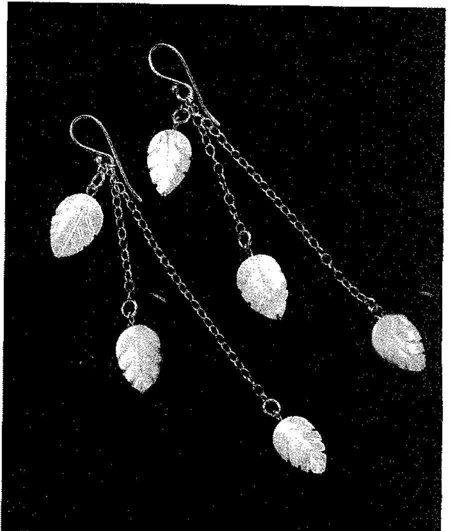

For the life of the party: ROBERTA CHIARELLA SILVER-WITH-AUSTRIAN-CRYSTAL EARRINGS, $228 at Henri Bendel.


For an arty style-setter: TENTHOUSANDTHINGS GOLD DROP EARRINGS WITH TAHITIAN PEARLS, $1,905 at TenThousandThings.

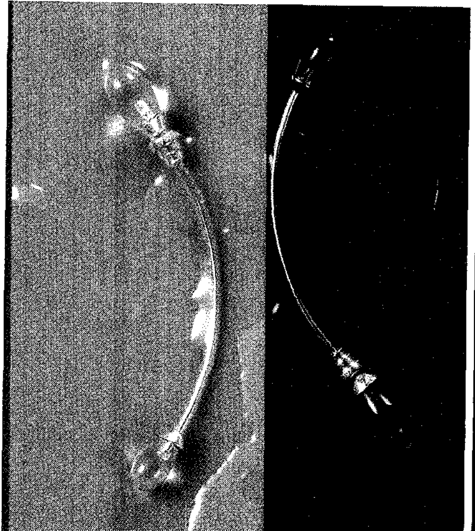

For the woman who made partner: STERLING-SILVER-AND-GOLD EARRINGS with smoky quartz and diamonds, $2,000 at David Yurman.


For delicate constitutions: CVDESIGN SILVER EARRINGS WITH JADE, PERIDOT, GARNET, AND GOLD BEADS, $125 at DiResta Gallery.


For the yoga instructor who changed your life: MIA & LIZZIE GOLD-AND-TURQUOISE EAR-THREADS, $688 at Bergdorf Goodman.


For your hippie-chic assistant: MOTHER-OF-PEARL EARRINGS, $65 at Nikki B.

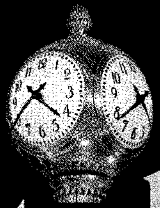
For the glamour girl: CHRISTIAN DIOR COQUINE WHITE-GOLD HOOPS WITH DIAMONDS, $6,100 at Christian Dior Fine Jewelry.


For uptown girls with downtown style: WHITE-GOLD EARRINGS WITH MADEIRA CITRINES, $495 at Emporio Armani stores.

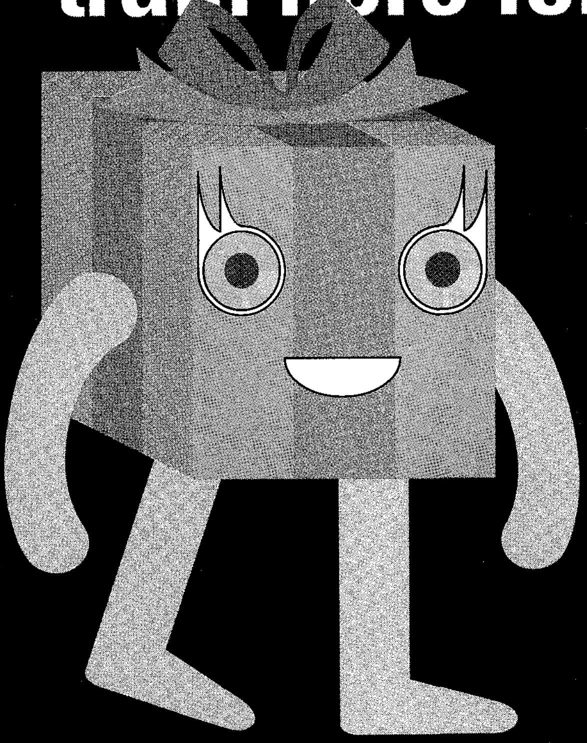
For your wife: WHITE-GOLD EARRINGS WITH DIAMONDS AND BLUE TOPAZ, $2,195 at Di Modolo.

EDITED BY RIMA SUQI. PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHAGO AKII-BUA AND BRIAN JON

Destination Grand Central



You can get more than just a train here for the holidays.



holiday shopping

Shop Grand Central's 50 specialty concourse shops plus the 72 unique merchants in the Vanderbilt Hall ***Holiday Fair***, Nov. 19 – Dec. 24.

holiday dining

Charlie Palmer's Métrazur, Cipriani Dolci,
Michael Jordan's The Steak House N.Y.C.,
Oyster Bar & Restaurant, The Campbell Apartment,
18 casual restaurants in the lower level
Dining Concourse.

holiday events

Enjoy the ***Holiday Light Shows*** on the Sky Ceiling presented by Häagen-Dazs, sponsored by The New York Times. Visit the New York Transit Museum's ***Holiday Model Train Show*** at their Gallery and Store.

holiday food

The Grand Central Market, an exciting European-style food hall, offers 14 of the finest fresh food purveyors to satisfy all of your holiday cooking needs.

For complete information about Grand Central's stores, restaurants, Market and holiday events, call 212-340-2210 or at www.grandcentralterminal.com.

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Peter S. Kalikow, Chairman
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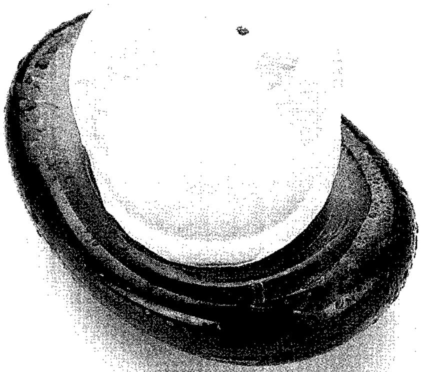
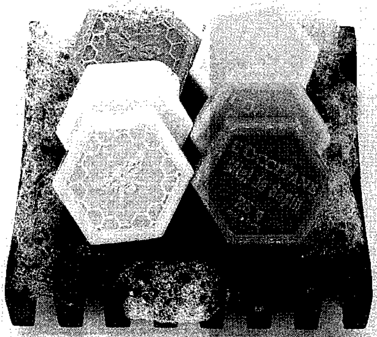
www.grandcentralterminal.com

SOAPS *Sudsy gifts can be cool, clean, and even dishy. Just add water.*

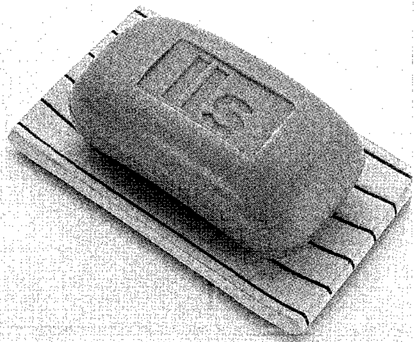
For store locations, see A–Z, page



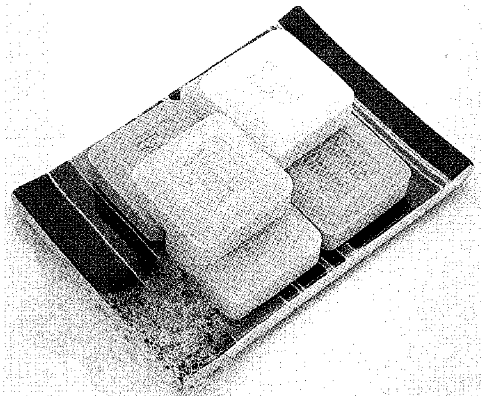
For rubber duckie's very best friend: **BATHOLOGY SOAP**, $6, and **ALESSI RESIN DISH**, $24, at the Terence Conran Shop.



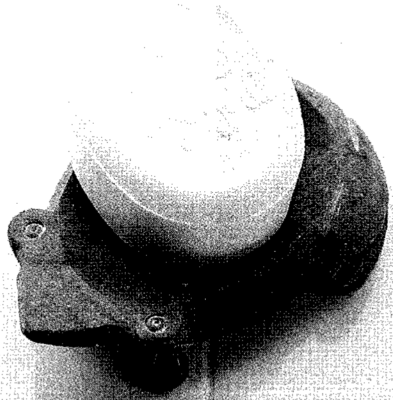
For your honey: **TWELVE-SOAP SET**, $26 at L'Occitane stores. **PALM WOOD DISH**, $24 at Global Table.



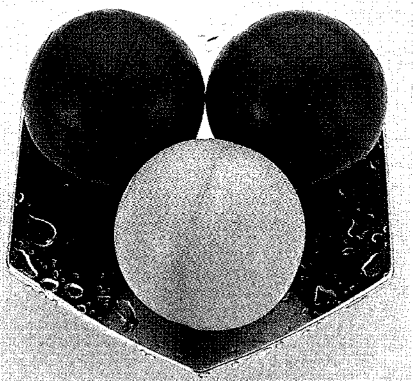
For Mr. Clean: **LARGE LEMON SOAP SLAB**, $15 at Bliss. **CERAMIC DISH**, $40 at Jonathan Adler.



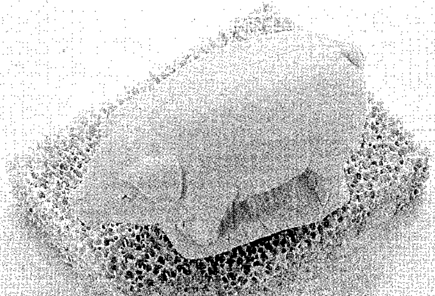
For fans of the luxe look: **TEN-SOAP SET**, $14 at L'Occitane stores. **JILL ROSENWALD DISH**, $52 at ABC Carpet & Home and jillrosenwald.com.



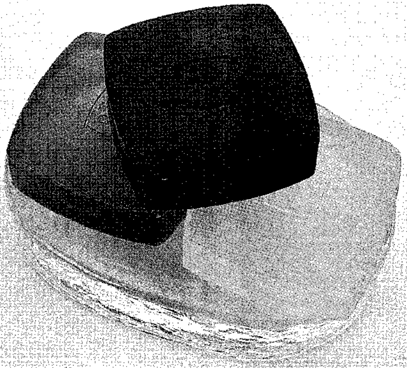
For proponents of the clean life: **DIRTY GIRL SOAP**, $12 at Henri Bendel. **SOAPSTONE DISH**, $25 at William Wayne & Co.



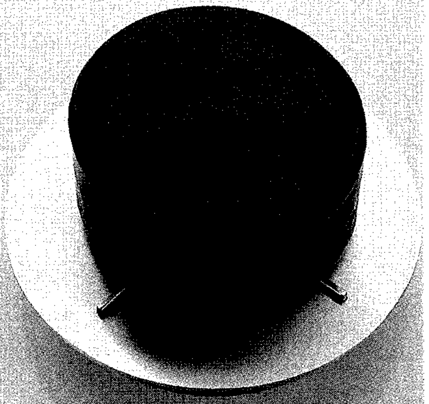
For the Christmas spirit: **RED FLOWER SOAPS**, $18 each at Barneys New York. **GOLD-PLATED DISH**, $105 at Floris London.



For the animal lover: **COCHON EN BOÎTE SOAP**, $22 at Bergdorf Goodman. **MODUS DESIGN PORCELAIN DISH**, $32 at Global Table.

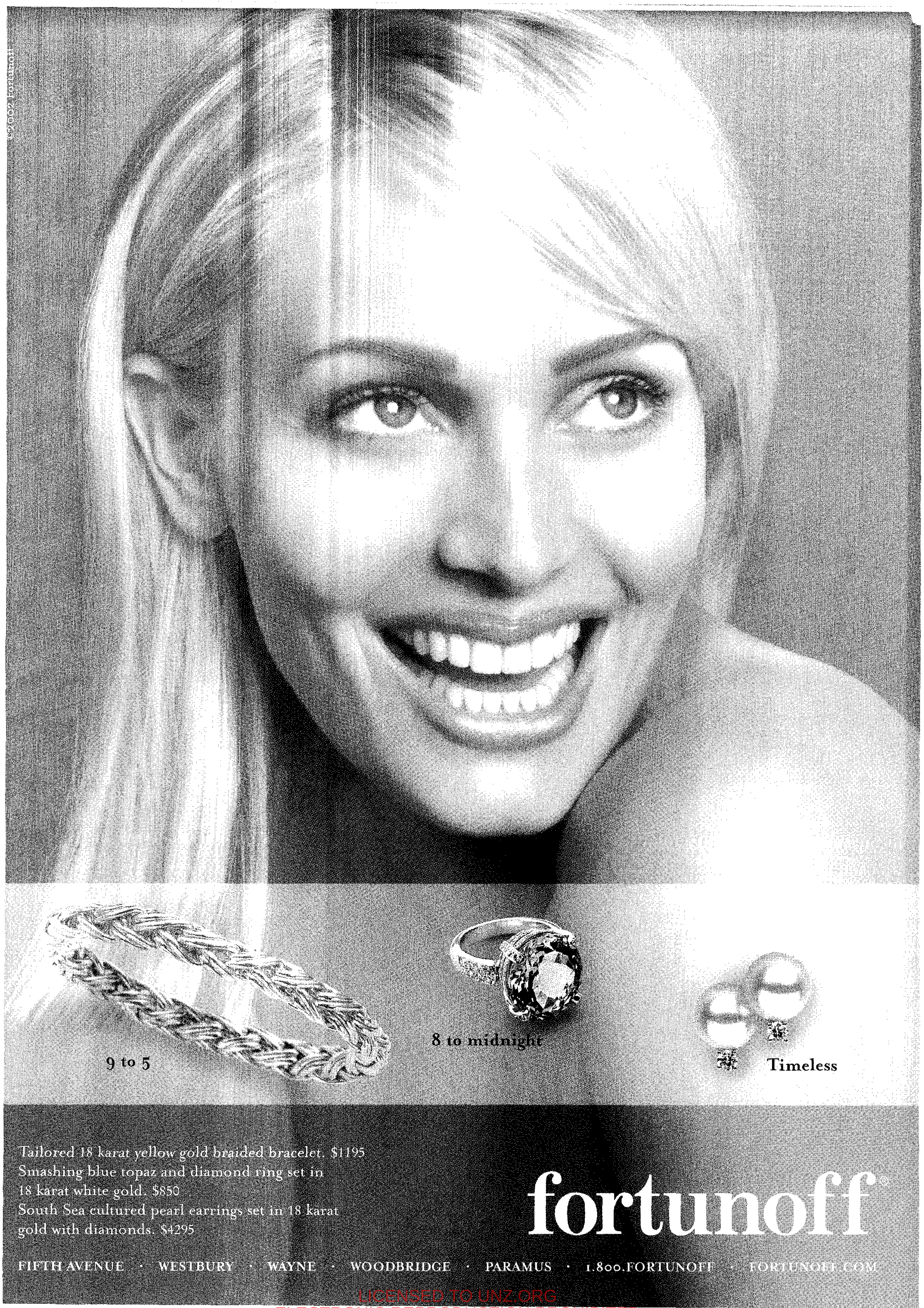


For the girl who likes clarity: **SHISEIDO SOAPS**, $22.50 for three at Bloomingdale's and Macy's. **GLASS DISH**, $25 at Calvin Klein.



For the lady who's sultrier than she seems: **YSL NU PERFUMED SOAP**, $25 at Bloomingdale's. **BLOMUS STEEL DISH**, $15 at Mxyplyzyk.

EDITED BY SHYAMA PATEL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY TED MORRIS



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Tailored 18 karat yellow gold braided bracelet. $1195
Smashing blue topaz and diamond ring set in
18 karat white gold. $850
South Sea cultured pearl earrings set in 18 karat
gold with diamonds. $4295

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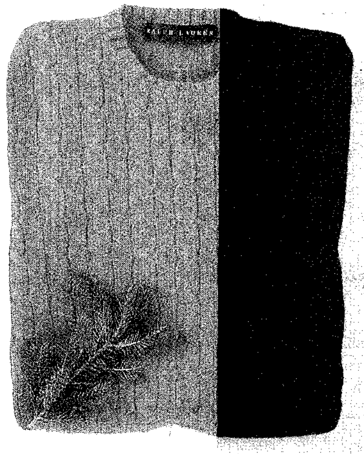
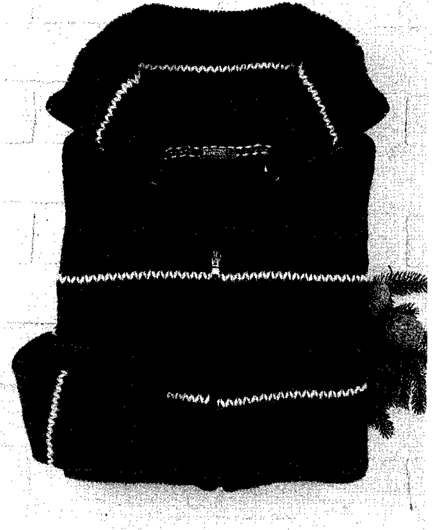
For store locations, see A–Z, page 1

For the fashion addict: CHAIKEN WOOL-AND-CASHMERE SWEATER, $260 at Barneys New York.



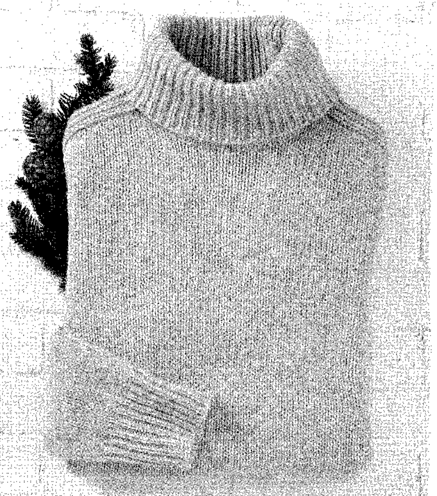
For the woman who lives in twinsets: CASHMERE CREWNECK, $398 at polo.com.



For your trendy teen: GIRL'S WOOL CARDIGAN, $68 at United Colors of Benetton stores.

For girls who aren't too crunchy for cashmere: CASHMERE POLO NECK, $326 at Henri Bendel and Earl Jean.

For the woman who never really dresses down: WOOL SWEATER, $145 at Nicole Farhi.



For your collegiate offspring: CK CALVIN KLEIN JEANS MEN'S WOOL TURTLENECK, $78 at Macy's.

For the young at heart: MEN'S REVERSIBLE CASHMERE-AND-COTTON SWEATSHIRT, $695 at Barneys New York.

For a guy who looks good in red: MEN'S WOOL CREWNECK, $98 at DKNY stores.

For the guy who likes the granddad look: WOOL CARDIGAN, $950 at Bally.

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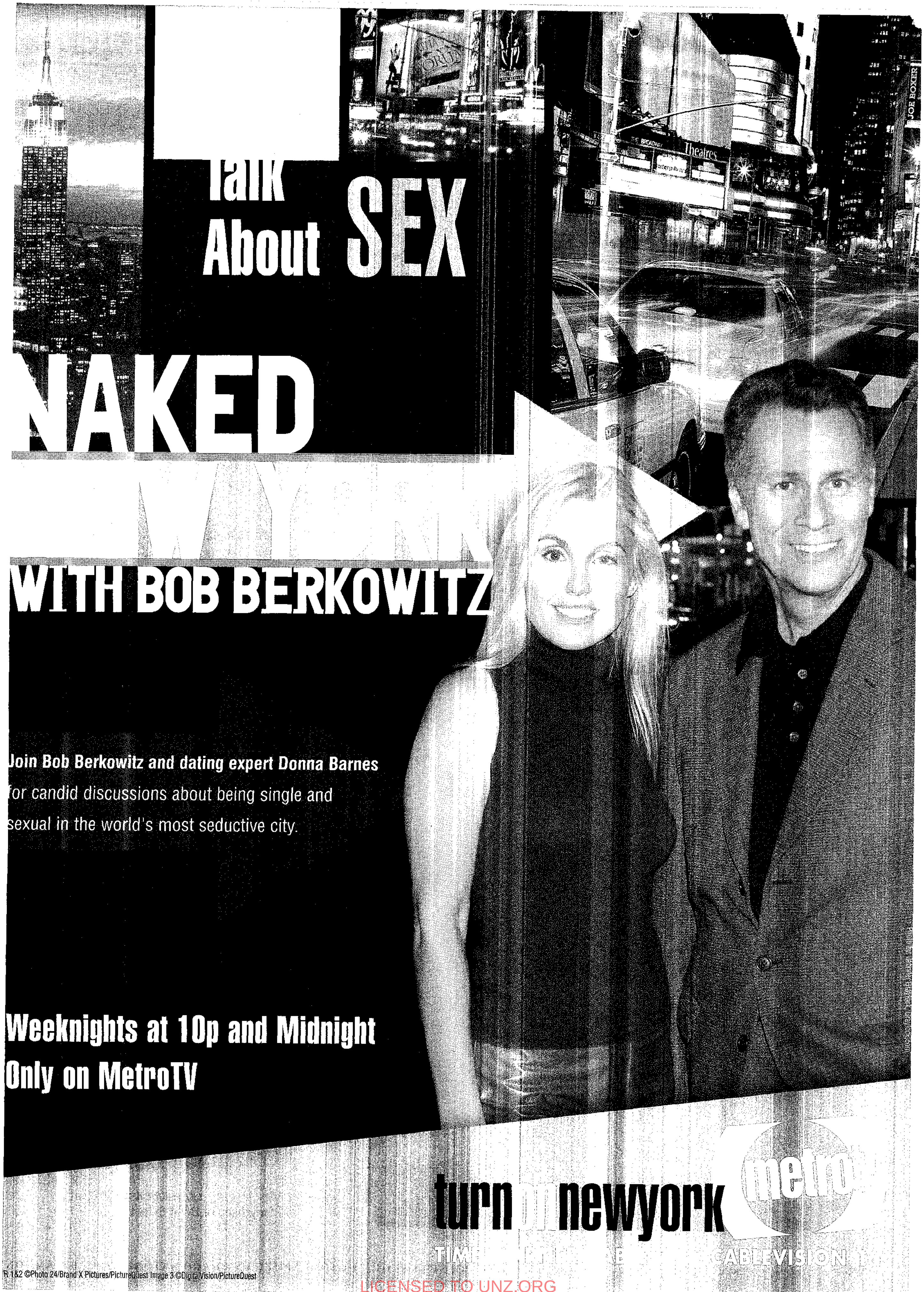

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LAPTOP CASES [illegible]

[illegible]

For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

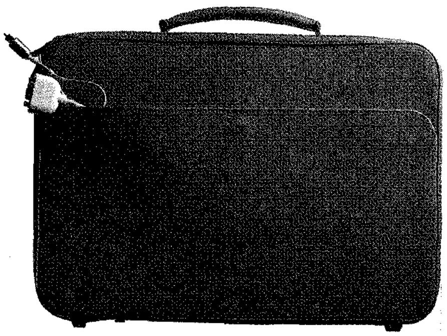
For the old-school and elegant: **LEATHER CASE,** $720 at Bottega Veneta.

For a hipster with an orange crush: CANVAS CASE, $85 at Jack Spade.

***For the girl with the green iBook:* CANVAS BAG,** $165 at Flight 001.

For big-city types with Big Sky style: SUEDE CASE, $485 at Hogan.

For the coat-and-tie guy who *could use a cool bag:* CASE, $119 at Kenneth Cole stores.



For Mr. Big: LEATHER CASE, $570 at *Smythson of Bond Street.*

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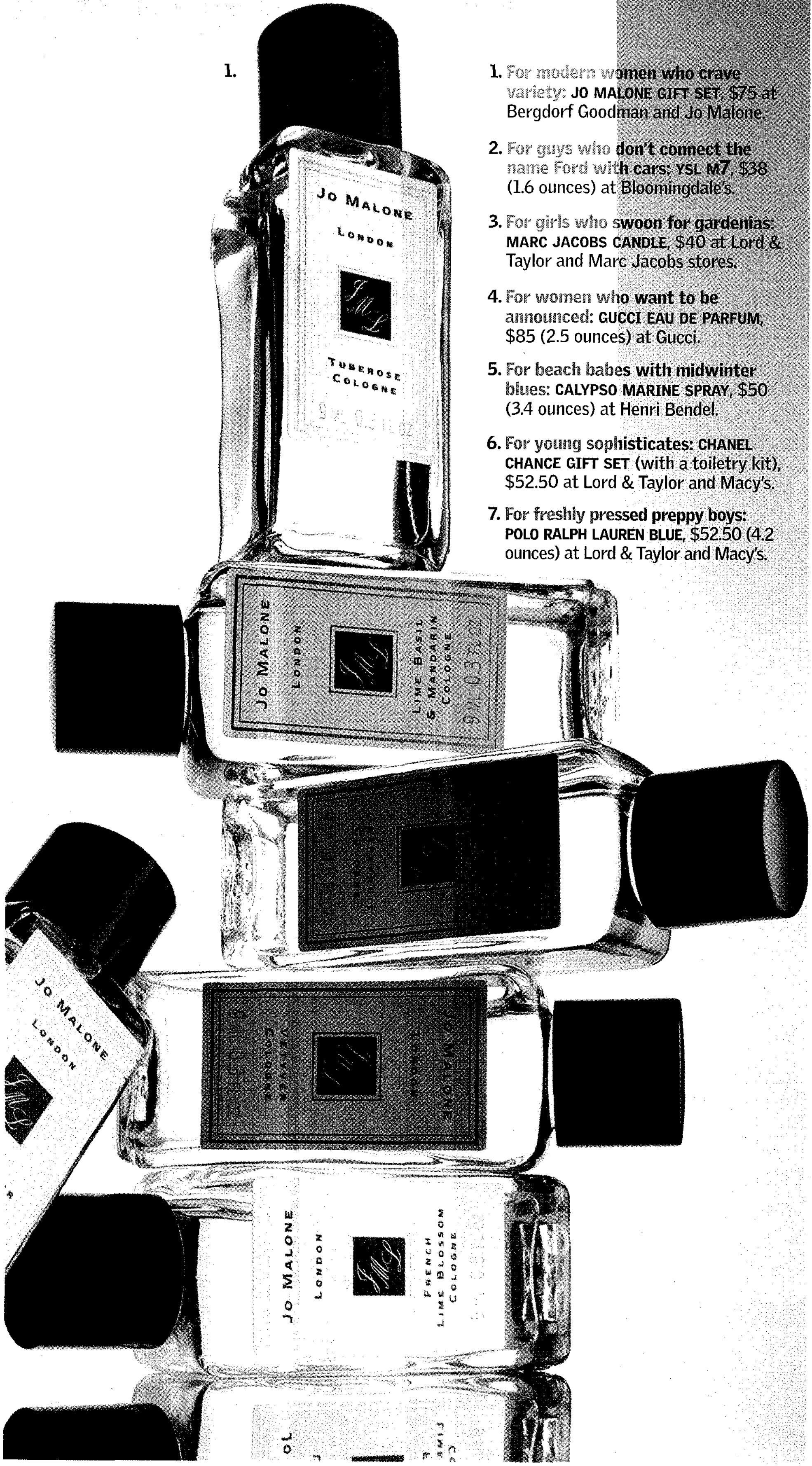
*See retailer for details.

FRAGRANCE *The sweetest smells of the season don't all come from the kitchen.*

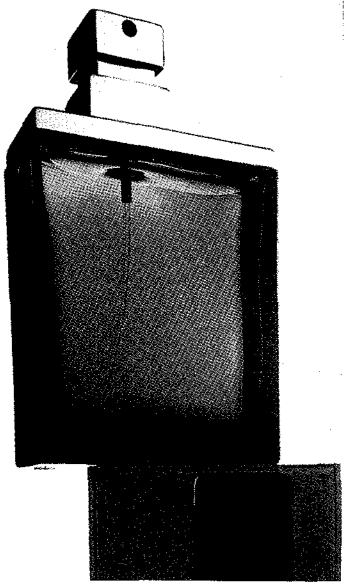
For store locations, see A–Z, page 106.

1.

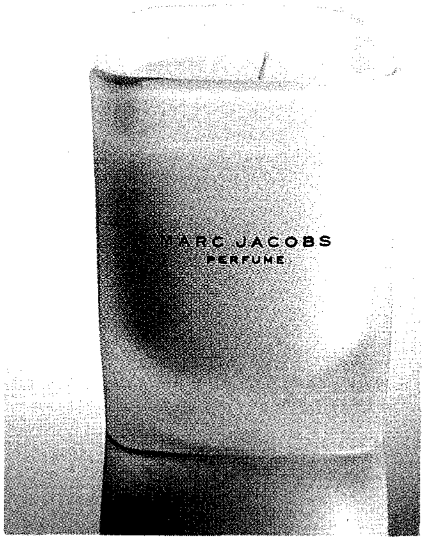

Jo Malone
London
Tuberose Cologne
9 ml 0.4 fl oz
Jo Malone
London
Lime Basil & Mandarin Cologne
9 ml 0.3 fl oz
Jo Malone
London
Jo Malone
London
French Lime Blossom Cologne

1. For modern women who crave variety: **JO MALONE GIFT SET**, $75 at Bergdorf Goodman and Jo Malone.
2. For guys who don't connect the name Ford with cars: **YSL M7**, $38 (1.6 ounces) at Bloomingdale's.
3. For girls who swoon for gardenias: **MARC JACOBS CANDLE**, $40 at Lord & Taylor and Marc Jacobs stores.
4. For women who want to be announced: **GUCCI EAU DE PARFUM**, $85 (2.5 ounces) at Gucci.
5. For beach babes with midwinter blues: **CALYPSO MARINE SPRAY**, $50 (3.4 ounces) at Henri Bendel.
6. For young sophisticates: **CHANEL CHANCE GIFT SET** (with a toiletry kit), $52.50 at Lord & Taylor and Macy's.
7. For freshly pressed preppy boys: **POLO RALPH LAUREN BLUE**, $52.50 (4.2 ounces) at Lord & Taylor and Macy's.

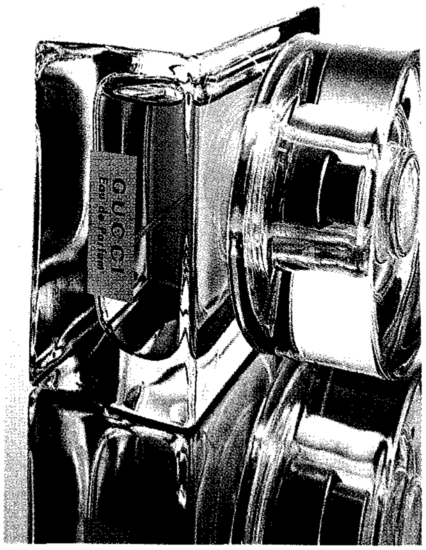
2.



3.


MARC JACOBS
PERFUME

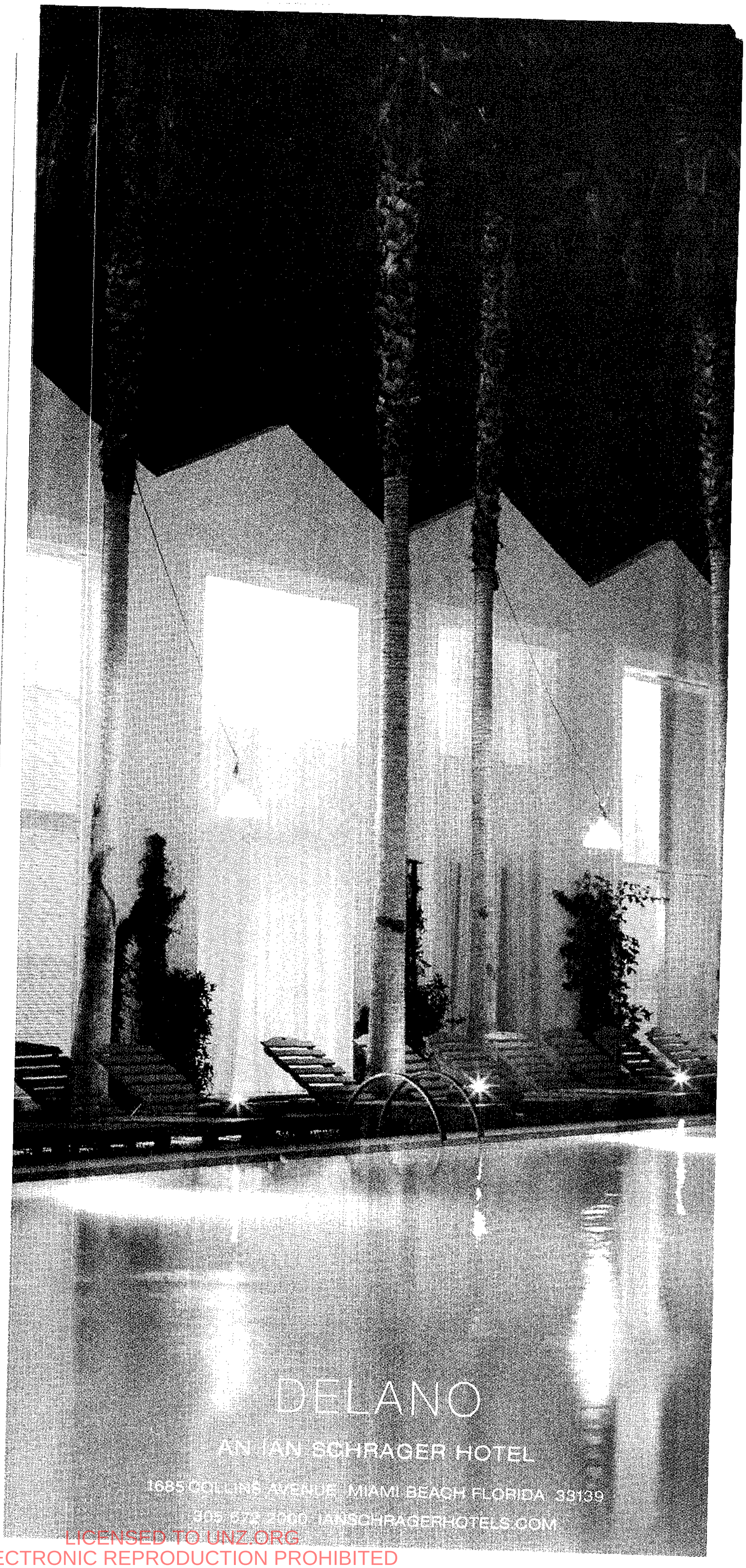
4.


GUCCI
Eau de Parfum

EDITED BY BETH LANDMAN KEIL. PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD PIERCE.

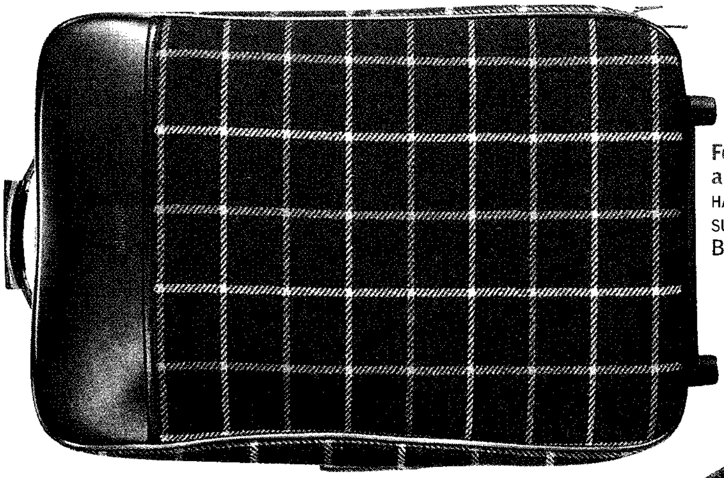
Christiane Celle
CALYPSO
MARINE
NEW YORK

CHANCE
CHANEL
CHANCE
CHANEL

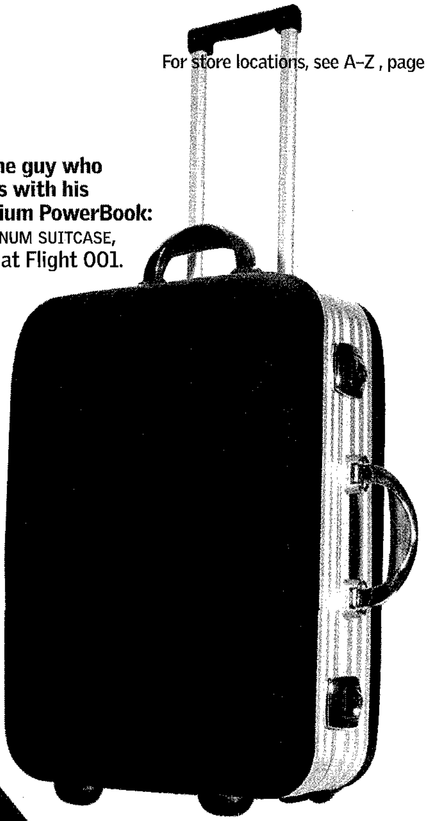

DELANO
AN IAN SCHRAGER HOTEL
1685 COLLINS AVENUE MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA 33139
305 672 2000 IANSCHRAGERHOTELS.COM

LUGGAGE *Travelers on* [illegible] *they'll actually use? Welcome to the wheel* [illegible]

For store locations, see A–Z , page



For the friend with a seventies fetish: HARTMANN WOOL SUITCASE, $755 at Bloomingdale's.



For the guy who sleeps with his Titanium PowerBook: ALUMINUM SUITCASE, $210 at Flight 001.

For Aspen-bound 10021s: CANVAS SUITCASE, $695 at T. Anthony.

For just getting signed: LEATHER SUITCASE, $1,280 at Fendi.

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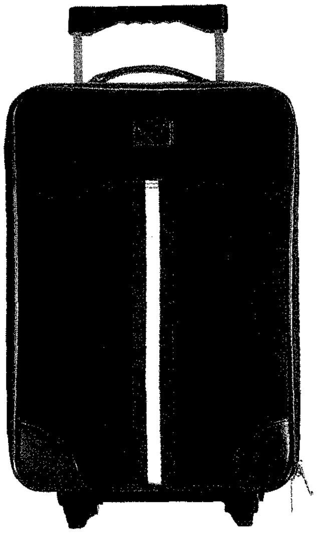
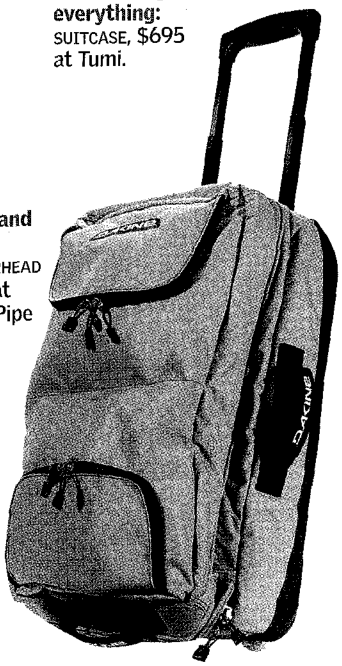
For the (really) junior set: DENIM SUITCASE, $125 at Quicksilver.



For couples into sharing everything: SUITCASE, $695 at Tumi.

For riders and shredders: DAKINE OVERHEAD BAG, $135 at New York Pipe Dreams.


DAKINE
DAKINE

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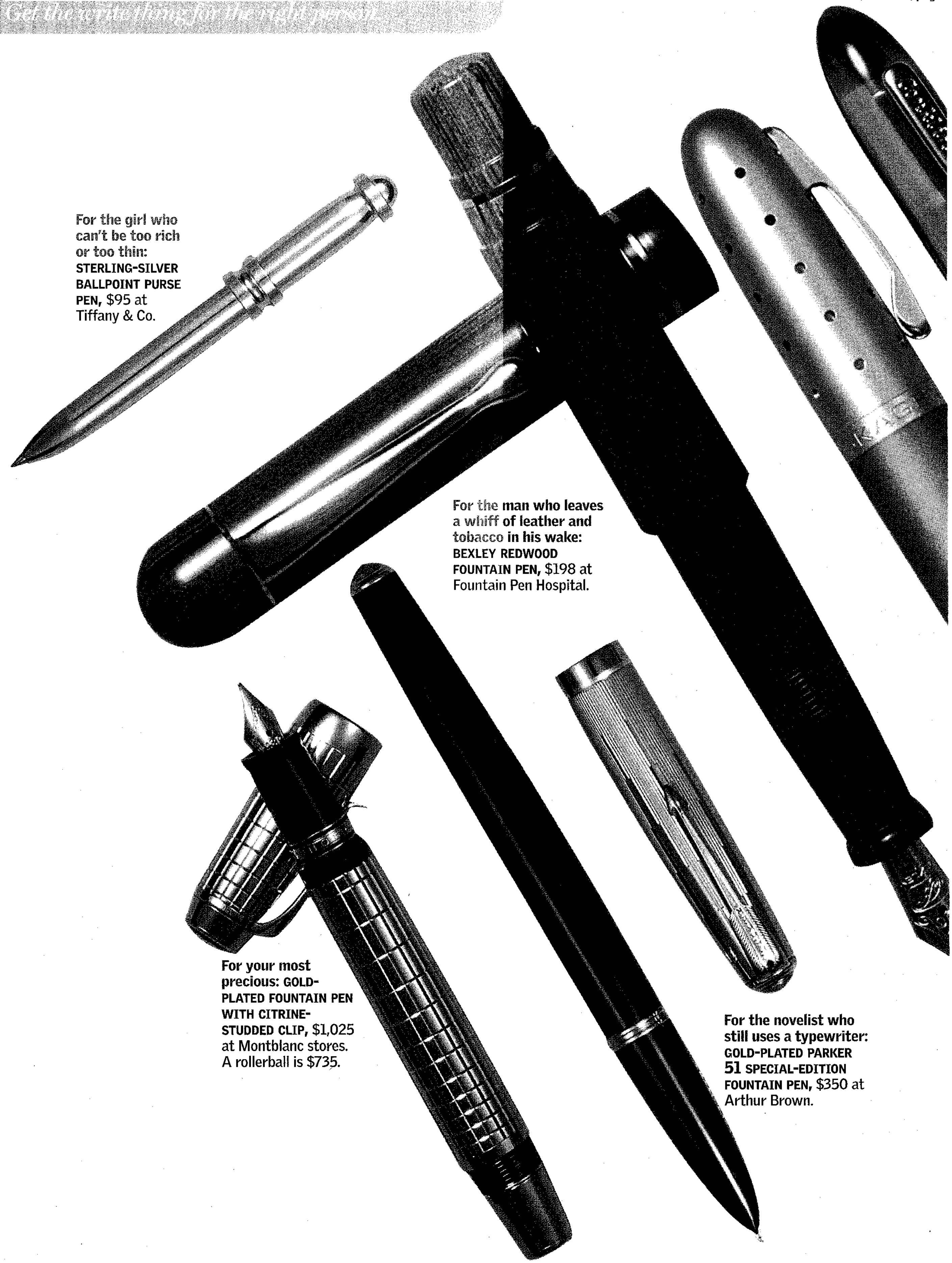
305 695 3100 SHORECLUB.COM IANSCHRAGERHOTELS.COM

PENS *Ballpoint or fountain?* [illegible]
Get the write thing for the right person.

For store locations, see A–Z , page



For the girl who can't be too rich or too thin: **STERLING-SILVER BALLPOINT PURSE PEN,** $95 at Tiffany & Co.

For the man who leaves a whiff of leather and tobacco in his wake: **BEXLEY REDWOOD FOUNTAIN PEN,** $198 at Fountain Pen Hospital.

For your most precious: **GOLD-PLATED FOUNTAIN PEN WITH CITRINE-STUDDED CLIP,** $1,025 at Montblanc stores. A rollerball is $735.

For the novelist who still uses a typewriter: **GOLD-PLATED PARKER 51 SPECIAL-EDITION FOUNTAIN PEN,** $350 at Arthur Brown.

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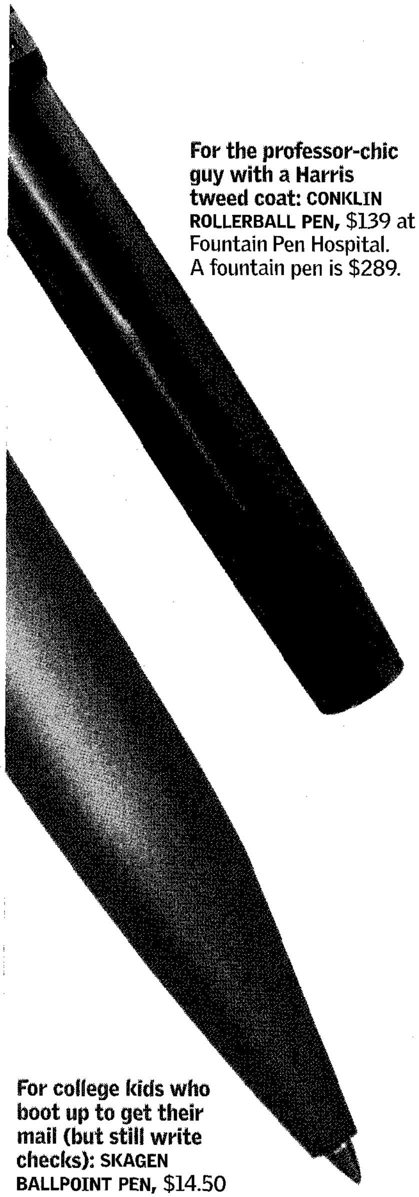

For the professor-chic guy with a Harris tweed coat: CONKLIN ROLLERBALL PEN, $139 at Fountain Pen Hospital. A fountain pen is $289.

For college kids who boot up to get their mail (but still write checks): SKAGEN BALLPOINT PEN, $14.50 at skagen.com.

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HOLIDAY GIFTS A–Z

A complete resource guide.

ABC Carpet & Home 888 Broadway, at 19th Street (212-473-3000).

ABH Design 401 East 76th Street (212-249-2276).

Anne Klein 417 West Broadway (212-965-9499).

Armani Casa 97 Greene Street (212-334-1271).

Arthur Brown 2 West 46th Street (212-575-5555).

Artisanal 2 Park Avenue, at 32nd Street (212-532-4033).

A. Testoni 665 Fifth Avenue, near 52nd Street (212-223-0909).

The Athlete's Foot Several stores in New York. Call 888-801-9157 or see theathletesfoot.com for locations.

Bally 628 Madison Avenue, at 59th Street (212-751-9082).

Banana Republic Several stores in New York. Call 888-BR-STYLE or see bananarepublic.com for locations.

B&H 420 Ninth Avenue, at 34th Street (212-444-6615).

Barneys New York 660 Madison Avenue, at 60th Street (212-826-8900).

Beekman Liquors 500 Lexington Avenue, near 48th Street (212-759-5857).

Bergdorf Goodman 754 Fifth Avenue, at 57th Street (212-753-7300).

Black Hound New York 170 Second Avenue, near 11th Street (800-344-4417).

Blades Board & Skate Several stores in New York. Call 888-55-BLADES or see blades.com for locations.

Bliss 19 East 57th Street; 568 Broadway, at Prince Street (212-219-8970).

Bloomingdale's 1000 Third Avenue, near 59th Street (212-705-2000).

Bombay Company Several stores in New York. Call 800-829-7789 or see bombaycompany.com for locations.

Bottega Veneta 635 Madison Avenue, at 59th Street (212-371-5511).

Brooks Brothers 346 Madison Avenue, at 44th Street (212-682-8800); 666 Fifth Avenue, at 53rd Street (212-261-9440).

Burgundy Wine Company 143 West 26th Street (212-691-9092).

Calvin Klein 654 Madison Avenue, at 60th Street (212-292-9000).

Chanel Fine Jewelry 733 Madison Avenue, near 64th Street (212-535-5828).

Chocolate Bar 48 Eighth Avenue (212-366-1541).

Christian Dior Fine Jewelry 17 East 57th Street (212-207-8448).

Circuit City Several stores in New York. Call 800-THE-CITY or see circuitcity.com for locations.

Coach Several stores in New York. Call 866-262-2440 or see coach.com for locations.

David Yurman 729 Madison Avenue, near 64th Street (212-752-4255).

Di Modolo 635 Madison Avenue, at 59th Street (212-644-6564).

DiResta Gallery 201 East 2nd Street (212-473-0515).

Disney Store Several stores in New York. Call 800-328-0368 or see disneystore.com for locations.

Distant Origin 153 Mercer Street (212-941-0024).

DKNY 655 Madison Avenue, at 60th Street (212-223-3569); 420 West Broadway (646-613-1100).

Dolce & Gabbana 825 Madison Avenue, near 68th Street (212-249-4100).

Earl Jean 160 Mercer Street (212-226-8709).

Eastern Mountain Sports 20 West 61st Street (212-397-4860); 591 Broadway, near Houston Street (212-966-8730).

Emporio Armani Several stores in New York. Call 800-699-3942 or see emporioarmani.com for locations.

Environment337 337 Smith Street, Brooklyn (718-522-1767).

Fendi 720 Fifth Avenue, at 56th Street (212-767-0100).

Fetch 43 Greenwich Avenue (212-352-8591).

Flight 001 96 Greenwich Avenue (212-691-1001).

Floris London 703 Madison Avenue, near 62nd Street (212-935-9100).

Fountain Pen Hospital 10 Warren Street (800-253-pens).

Four Paws Club 387 Bleecker Street (212-367-8265).

Frank's Liquor Shop 46 Union Square East (212-473-3231).

Gant USA 645 Fifth Avenue, near 51st Street (212-813-9170); 77 Wooster Street (212-431-9610).

Gap Several stores in New York. Call 800-GAPSTYLE or see gap.com for locations.

Giorgio Armani 760 Madison Avenue, at 65th Street (212-988-9191).

Global Table 107 Sullivan Street (212-431-5839).

Godiva Several stores in New York. Call 800-9-GODIVA or see godiva.com for locations.

Gracious Home 1220 Third Avenue, near 70th Street (212-517-6300); 1992 Broadway, at 67th Street (212-231-7800).

Gucci 685 Fifth Avenue, at 54th Street (212-826-2600).

Hammacher Schlemmer 147 East 57th Street (212-421-9000).

Harvey Electronics 2 West 45th Street (212-575-5000); and at ABC Carpet & Home.

Henri Bendel 712 Fifth Avenue, at 56th Street (212-247-1100).

Hermès 691 Madison Avenue, at 62nd Street (212-751-3181).

HMV Several stores in New York. See hmv.com for locations.

Hogan 134 Spring Street (212-343-3039).

Home Depot Several stores in New York. Call 800-553-3199 or see homedepot.com for locations.

Jack Spade 56 Greene Street (212-625-1820).

J&R 31 Park Row (212-238-9000).

John Varvatos 149 Mercer Street (212-965-0700).

Jo Malone 949 Broadway, near 23rd Street (212-673-2220).

Jonathan Adler 465 Broome Street (212-941-8950).

Kenneth Cole Several stores in New York. Call 800-KEN-COLE or see kennethcole.com for locations.

LePage New York 72 Thompson Street (212-966-2646).

Ligne Roset Several stores in New York. Call 800-297-6738 or see ligne-roset-usa.com for locations.

Links of London 535 Madison Avenue, near 53rd Street (212-588-1177).

Lobel's 1096 Madison Avenue, near 82nd Street (212-737-1372).

L'Occitane Several stores in New York. Call 888-623-2880 or see loccitane.com for locations.

Lord & Taylor 424 Fifth Avenue, near 38th Street (212-391-3344).

Macy's 151 West 34th Street (212-695-4400).

Marc Jacobs Several stores in New York. Call 212-343-1490 or see marcjacobs.com for locations.

MarieBelle 484 Broome Street (212-925-6999).

Maurice Villency 200 East 57th Street (212-725-4840).

MoMA Design Store 44 West 53rd Street; 81 Spring Street (800-447-6662).

Montblanc Several stores in New York. Call 800-995-4810 or see montblanc.com for locations.

Moss 146 Greene Street (212-226-2190).

Mxyplyzyk 125 Greenwich Avenue (212-989-4300).

New York Pipe Dreams 1623 York Avenue, near 86th Street (212-535-PIPE).

Nicole Farhi 10 East 60th Street (212-223-8811).

Nikki B. 20 Harrison Street (212-343-9731).

Panda Sport 9213 Fifth Avenue, near 92nd Street, Brooklyn (718-238-4919).

Paragon Sporting Goods 24 East 18th Street (212-255-8036).

Park Avenue Liquors 292 Madison Avenue, near 41st Street (212-685-2442).

Paul Smith 108 Fifth Avenue, at 16th Street (212-627-9770).

Paul Stuart 350 Madison Avenue, at 45th Street (212-682-0320).

Pilgrim Home 202 Bedford Avenue, near North 6th Street, Brooklyn (718-599-0023).

Princeton Ski Shops 21 East 22nd Street (212-228-4400).

Quicksilver 109 Spring Street (212-334-4500).

Ralph Lauren 867 Madison Avenue, at 72nd Street (212-606-2100).

Random Accessories 169 Thompson Street (212-358-9079).

Restoration Hardware 935 Broadway, near 22nd Street (212-260-9479).

Saks Fifth Avenue 611 Fifth Avenue, at 50th Street (212-753-4000).

Seize sur Vingt 243 Elizabeth Street (212-343-0476).

Shanghai Tang 714 Madison Avenue, near 64th Street (212-888-0111).

Sherry Lehman 679 Madison Avenue, near 61st Street (212-838-7500).

Smythson of Bond Street 4 West 57th Street (212-265-4573).

Strip House 13 East 12th Street (212-328-0000).

Supreme, 274 Lafayette Street (212-966-7799).

T. Anthony 445 Park Avenue, at 56th Street (212-750-9797).

Target 135-05 Twentieth Avenue, near 135th Street, Queens (718-661-4346); 8801 Queens Boulevard, Queens (718-760-5656).

Tent and Trails 21 Park Place (212-227-1760).

TenThousandThings 137 West 19th Street (212-352-1333).

Terence Conran Shop 407 East 59th Street (212-755-9079).

Thomas Pink 520 Madison Avenue, near 53rd Street (212-838-1928).

Tiffany & Co. 727 Fifth Avenue, at 57th Street (212-755-8000).

TKNY 21 Avenue B, near 2nd Street (212-677-0500).

Tourneau Several stores in New York. Call 800-772-7836 or see tourneau.com for locations.

Tower Records Several stores in New York. Call 800-ASK-TOWER or see towerrecords.com for locations.

Tumi Several stores in New York. See tumi.com for locations.

United Colors of Benetton Several stores in New York. Call 800-535-4491 or see benetton.com for locations.

Victoria's Secret Several stores in New York. Call 800-888-1500 or see victoriassecret.com for locations.

Villeroy & Boch 901 Broadway, at 20th Street (212-505-1090).

Williams-Sonoma Several stores in New York. Call 877-812-6235 or see williams-somona.com for locations.

William Wayne & Co. 850 Lexington Avenue, at 64th Street (212-288-9243).

The Wiz Several stores in New York. See thewiz.com for locations.

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PAPER GOODS

Give the people what they really want—something they can pick out themselves. Here's our selection of the season's best gift certificates for all tastes and budgets.

By Sarah Bernard

MAKING ARRANGEMENTS: Give the gift of a class at the Jane Packer Flower School.

$20 AND UP

Sweets for the sweet: A $25 certificate to Dylan's Candy Bar, which carries over 5,000 kinds of candy—from gummy Coca-Cola bottles to *Harry Potter*–inspired chocolate frogs—lets recipients customize their sugar highs (1011 Third Avenue, at 60th Street; 646-735-0078).

Hand it off: Save a friend—or at least her hands—with a Rescue Me Manicure ($18), the signature treatment at the wildly popular Rescue Nail spa, which includes a lavender-and-arnica-oil cuticle rub followed by a citrus hand exfoliation (21 Cleveland Place; 212-431-3805).

Coffee talk: Give a week's worth of morning caffeine with a $25 Starbucks gift card, or pair a $20 card with a box of Starbucks *après*-coffee mints and gum ($7.95; starbucks.com).

Let the games begin: A $20 gift certificate to the ESPN Zone's massive game arcade means aspiring sports stars can hone their skills at the air-hockey table or inside the Daytona deluxe race car (1472 Broadway, at 42nd Street; 212-921-3776).

Reel love: A pair of tickets to the Ziegfeld is the perfect gesture for the cineast. The classic theater has the city's largest screen. Tickets are $10 apiece. (141 West 54th Street; 212-307-1862).

Sports pack: A Chelsea Piers gift card can be used at any of the complex's facilities ($25 will get you 148 tee-offs at the driving range, an open session of rock climbing at the field house, three hours' worth of basketball—you get the idea). The certificate can even be used at the spa for products or services like the fifteen-minute "express" manicure or pedicure, each of which is $12 (chelseapiers.com).

Tech team: A $25 Apple gift card can be put toward anything in Apple's new store in Soho, including the latest Superman and Powerpuff Girls computer games, Apple classics like the iPod, Canon digital cameras, and JBL Creature Speakers (103 Prince Street; 212-226-3126).

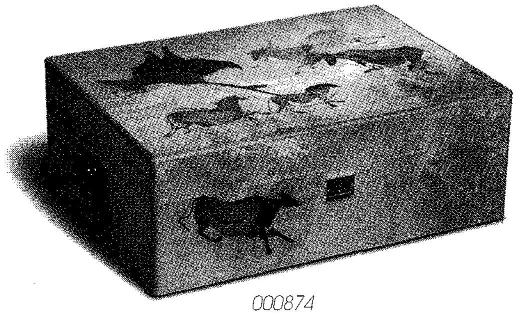
$50 AND UP

Beauty in a box: A Bliss Box 50 holiday package ($50) includes a "Blisscertificate" for a hot-cream manicure, a huge bar of the company's famous lemon-sage soap, high-intensity hand cream, and trial samples of lemon-sage body butter and lemon-peel scrub. The certificate is good for a year and can be swapped for other products (blissworld.com).

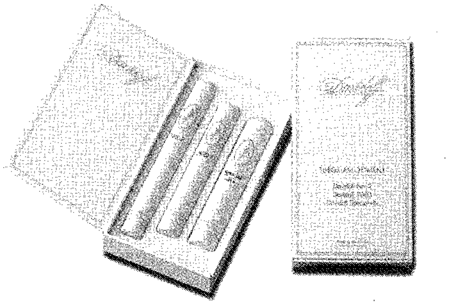
Party prep: Those who have yet to try that pricey Japanese hair-straightening

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC PIASECKI

Gifts for the "Good Life."

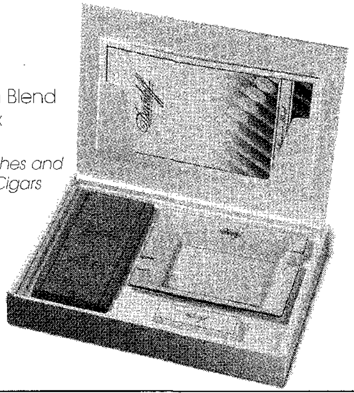


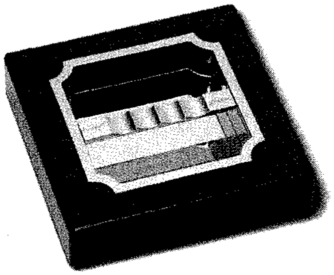
000874
Davidoff Limited Edition Giant Humidor
$14,500.00



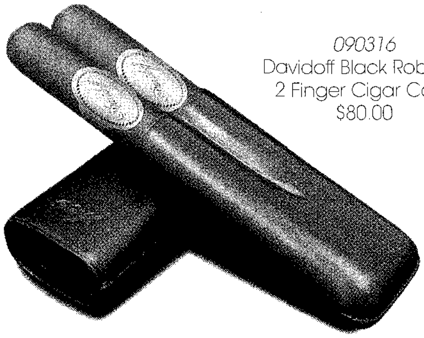
027378
Davidoff Tubos Cigar Assortment 3 Pack
$33.30

027397
Davidoff Millennium Blend
Cigar Gift Box
$160.00
Features: Ashtray, Matches and
4 Millennium Blend Cigars

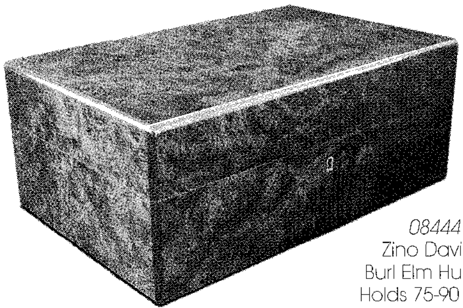




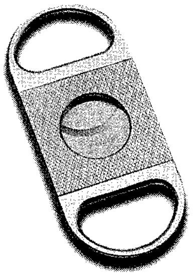
091180
Davidoff Red Mahogany, Gilded Ashtray
$950



090316
Davidoff Black Robusto
2 Finger Cigar Case
$80.00

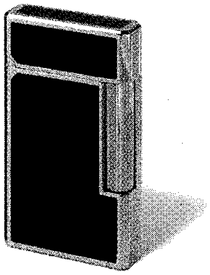


084441
Zino Davidoff
Burl Elm Humidor
Holds 75-90 cigars
$1,450.00



090288
Davidoff Barley Chrome
Double Blade Cigar Cutter
$280.00

052110
Davidoff Palladium Black
China Lacquer Cigar Lighter
$760.00



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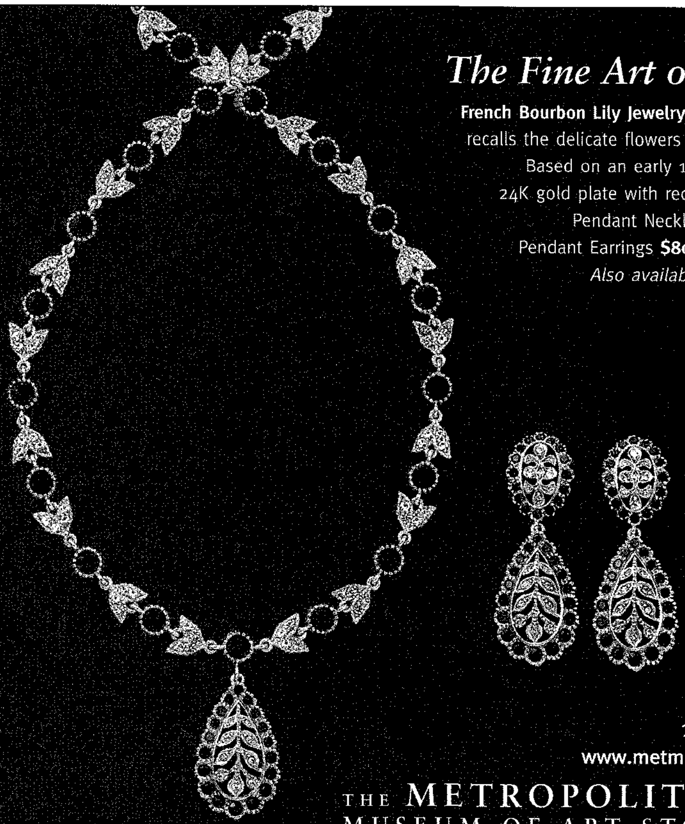

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DYLAN'S CANDY BAR

SWEET SPOT: A well-stocked gift basket from Dylan's Candy Bar.

treatment—but have days when they wish they had—will appreciate a $46 Bumble & Bumble blowout (146 East 56th Street; 212-521-6500).

Eye opener: A $50 certificate to Haven for a For Your Eyes Only facial treatment—an eye-area massage to undo dark circles, fatigue, and expression lines—is perfect for pre-holiday refreshment, or post-holiday recuperation (150 Mercer Street; 212-343-3515).

In vino veritas: At Italian Wine Merchants, wine buyer and co-owner Sergio Esposito will help the recipient of a $50 gift certificate navigate the store's well-edited selection of Italian wines, which start at $9 (108 East 16th Street; 212-473-2323).

Boogie nights: Is your husband a hazard on the dance floor? A pack of five dance classes ($60), from flamenco to ballroom, at the 92nd Street Y will get him back on his feet—and off yours (1395 Lexington Avenue; 212-996-1100).

Phone home: Make sure someone keeps in touch with an AT&T PrePaid Phone Card. A 300-minute card is $50 (att.com).

Art and crafts: Kick-start someone's creative efforts with a $50 gift certificate to Pearl Paint. This art-supply center on Canal Street has it all (308 Canal Street; 212-431-7932).

Room service: Let the recipient decide among a stay at the Ritz in Paris, a trip to Gleneagles in Scotland, or a close-to-home dinner at Jean Georges with a certificate from the Leading Hotels of the World and

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Hair repair: Help your friends tend to their winter hair with a certificate for Frédéric Fekkai's Protein Rx fortifying hair treatment ($60) with soothing soy and milk protein (15 East 57th Street; 212-753-9500).

$75 AND UP

Comfort food: A $75 certificate to City Bakery can be applied to a savory sit-down brunch or to rolls of its notoriously rich cookie dough to bake at home, best accompanied by multiple helpings of its molten hot chocolate, of course (3 West 18th Street; 212-366-1414).

Fields of dreams: Depending on which side of the Subway Series they were on, spring-minded sports fans (and what other kind is there in New York at the moment?) will appreciate two tickets to a Mets or Yankees game. Yankees tickets are not issued until the New Year, but certificates for 2003 games will be available starting December 13 (field-level seats are around $37; yankees.com). Visit mets.com and purchase Mets Money, which can be redeemed for tickets or stadium snacks. Seats at Shea are about $33 for a field-level box.

Lengthen and strengthen: A $75 gift certificate to Balance Pilates studio entitles the recipient to one private Pilates session plus one of three how-to videos from instructor Jennifer Kries (*Precision Pilates*, *Pilates Perfect Mix*, or *Three-Dimensional Toning*) so he can continue on his own (414 West 14th Street; 212-414-2922).

All that glitters: With a $75 certificate to Femmegems NoLiTa, the newly opened make-your-own-jewelry store, gift-getters can either learn to craft a piece themselves or pick the stones they fancy and watch as a designer makes it for them (280 Mulberry Street; 212-625-1611).

Batter up: Future heavy-hitters or those simply in need of an adrenaline rush can smack an hour's worth of fastballs ($75) in the batting cage at Frozen Ropes baseball center (202 West 74th Street; 212-362-0344).

Shopping spree: A $75 certificate to Woodbury Common Premium Outlets lets a lucky friend spend your present at any one of the 220 stores—from Chanel, Space (i.e., Prada and Miu Miu), and Gucci to newly opened Bruno Magli and LeSportsac. A bonus: Recipients get to take advantage of post-Christmas sales (premiumoutlets.com).

high intensity hand cream
bliss

SHEER BLISS: The Bliss Box 50 includes a manicure plus soaps, creams, and scrubs.

$100 AND UP

Color me . . . The gift of a M.A.C makeup lesson ($90 only at M.A.C stores) will help a lucky girl perfect the latest smoky-eye technique. A lesson comes with a complimentary wand of mascara, a face chart to help her remember what she's learned, and a onetime 20 percent discount on products to be used within 30 days (maccosmetics.com).

Foot fetish: Any city dweller will welcome a session of reflexology plus a pretty pedicure ($100) at Brigitte Mansfield (37 Union Square West; 212-366-0706).

Kitchen help: An evening or weekend class ($100) at the Institute of Culinary Education, formerly known as Peter Kump's, will get things cooking for your budding chef (50 West 23rd Street; 212-847-0700).

That's the ticket: A $100 Ticketmaster gift certificate lets the recipient decide whether he's in the mood for a Broadway show or a rock concert at Irving Plaza (ticketmaster.com).

Make a racket: At the Midtown Tennis Club, a $100 certificate buys one private lesson ($95), two hours of court time (starts at $50 per hour), or tennis gear from the pro shop (341 Eighth Avenue, at 27th Street; 212-989-8572).

Body and soul: The Inhale Exhale holiday package at Stretch ($100) includes five yoga classes and a one-hour massage (601 West 26th Street; 212-366-1003).

Face time: The Little Treasures holiday package at Equinox Spa ($100) makes facials more enjoyable by pairing a half-hour pore cleansing with a half-hour Swedish or deep-tissue massage (equinoxnyc.com).

$250 AND UP

Camera ready: A $250 gift certificate to Sarah Merian's Photography & Company for a digital holiday-photo shoot will guarantee a fantastic family portrait. The digital camera's screen lets the photographer be sure all squirming kids are smiling at the same time. Since there's no processing, clients can leave with either a set of four 5-by-7 prints or nine 3½-by-3½ shots in a framed wall folio. Photos can also be posted to a password-protected site so friends and relatives can order additional prints (sarahmerians.com).

Order in: Buy someone a mini dinner party for ten with a gift certificate from Citarella. The Tuscan appetizer tray is $120; the smoked-fish platter of Nova, sturgeon, and whitefish is $135; the filet mignon with a crème fraîche–horseradish sauce is $125. And don't forget the chocolate-dipped strawberries, $40 (citarella.com).

Culture club: Aspiring urban sophisticates will love a one-year membership to the Neue Galerie ($275), the year-old museum of early-twentieth-century German and Austrian art and design, housed in a former Vanderbilt mansion. Membership includes a 10 percent discount at the gift shop and bookstore, invitations to museum events like lectures and chamber-music concerts, plus "Members' Thursdays," when the museum is open to members only (1048 Fifth Avenue, at 86th Street; 212-628-6200).

Shoe service: A new pair of stilettos is the ultimate gift for many, but buying for a friend is next to impossible. With that in mind, Sigerson Morrison offers certificates that specify the shoe being given ($280 and up), but not the size. The gift-getter can come to the store to try on either the shoes you liked or whichever style she prefers (28 Prince Street; 212-219-3893).

Flower power: Jane Packer, the British florist famed for her sculptural designs and royal clientele, has opened an outpost of her school at the Terence Conran Shop. Day and evening flower-arranging classes, with themes like "Fruit and Flower" and "East Meets West," are $250 (407 East 59th Street; 212-754-1731).

Love connection: Just in time for New Year's Eve, give a love-seeking friend a one-hour consultation with matchmaker Samantha Daniels. The $250 gift includes a 45-minute "socializing strategy session" complete with an analysis of dating habits, plus a custom-made list of places to go and things to do to meet potential mates (samanthastable.com; 212-717-6033).

All year long: Homebodies and DVD addicts will love a year's subscription to Netflix ($240), an online service that ships new DVDs each month. The best part: You can keep them as long as you like and return them afterward in prepaid, pre-addressed envelopes (netflix.com).

$400 AND UP

Muscle bound: Mention *New York* Magazine when you call Lift Gym to get $625 worth of services on a $500 gift certificate. The package includes a one-month membership, four training sessions, and a one-hour massage of either the Shiatsu, sports, or therapeutic variety (139 East 57th Street; 212-688-3304).

At-home beauty: For $500, Oscar Blandi, hairstylist to Sarah Michelle Gellar, Salma Hayek, and Katie Holmes, will make a house call to the lucky person who gets your gift certificate (Oscar Blandi at the Plaza Hotel; 212-593-7930).

A touch of class: Treat Francophiles to French lessons at the Alliance Française. A five-week winter or spring session is $410, plus books and registration fees (22 East 60th Street; 212-355-6100).

Feast your eyes: A $500 gift certificate to Wylie Dufresne's much-anticipated new restaurant, WD50, opening in December, will cover dinner for four without skimping on the wine list (50 Clinton Street; 212-477-2900).

Hotel holiday: Give the gift of a mini-vacation at the *über*-chic City Club Hotel. The staff will help make the stay a romantic surprise by pampering your guest with complimentary champagne and room service from the hotel's restaurant, Daniel Boulud's DB Bistro Moderne. Five hundred dollars buys two nights in a less expensive room (approximately $195 per night) or, if you prefer, one night in a king luxe (approximately $325) (55 West 44th Street; 212-921-5500).

Food for thought: A consultation with nutrition guru Oz Garcia ($500), who counts Kim Cattrall and Veronica Webb among his charges, includes a hair analysis to assess dietary needs and a follow-up visit (10 West 74th Street; 212-362-5569).

Luxe life: Let your label-conscious friends choose their own designer with a $500 Eluxury gift certificate. The Website is the only place to shop online for LVMH products like Dior, Galliano, and Louis Vuitton. Recipients are notified by e-mail, which makes this an excellent choice for last-minute shoppers (eluxury.com).

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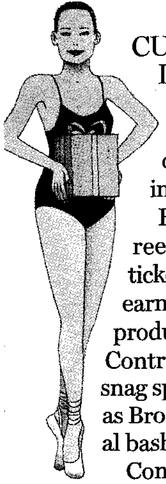
You've picked the perfect bauble for everyone from your baby-sitter to your brother-in-law. Why not play Santa Claus to someone you don't know? The city is filled with organizations that need your dollars more than ever—and it might well be the most meaningful exchange you'll have all year. By Jo B. Hoffman

IT MAY BE THE SEASON TO GET HIGH ON HOT toddies, stuffed with turkey, and tangled in Christmas lights. But glorious gluttony aside, it's also a time when not just our bellies but our hearts are full—and we want to give something back. From homeless shelters to hospitals, there are hundreds of organizations that could use your help. Here, a few of New York's worthiest causes.



CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Sixty-year-old **New York City Opera** (212-870-5624; nycopera.com) is known for nurturing young, up-and-coming artists—Renée Fleming launched her career here—and for its affordable tickets (they start at $25). Donors can earmark where their money goes—to production, rehearsals, or artists' fees. Contributors of $10,000 or more can snag special invitations to parties such as Brooke and Peter Duchin's annual bash thrown at their apartment.

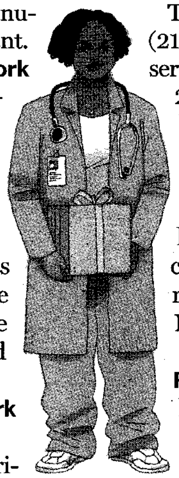
Contributions to the **New York City Ballet** (212-870-5682; development@nycballet.com) are put toward the cost of 23 weeks of performances, the creation of new works, and funding educational programs. A $1,500 donation gets you access to house seats for popular performances. Give $5,000 or more, and you'll also be invited to private receptions and dinners with the dancers.

By giving money to the **New York Philharmonic** (212-875-5683; newyorkphilharmonic.org), America's oldest orchestra, donors help defray costs of commissioning new works and bringing music to the non-paying public. Money goes toward tours, free concerts in the park, radio broadcasts, as well as general operating expenses. Patrons who give $75 are invited to attend rehearsals.

At the **Museum of the City of New York** (212-534-1672; mcny.org), which preserves and presents 400 years of Gotham history (the twelve current and ongoing exhibits range in topic from the first Automat to the Astor Place Riot), a mere $35 donation gets you membership privileges like free admission, discounts on store merchandise, and invitations to the spring and fall receptions.

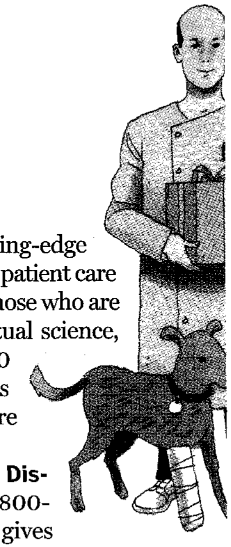
MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Founded as the New York Cancer Hospital in 1884, **Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center** (646-227-3548; mskcc.org) is the world's oldest and largest cancer facility (it served 18,739 inpatients last year). The focus is on cancer research as well as patient care. Donators can specify where they'd like their gift to go—toward breast-cancer research, for example—or money may be left "unrestricted" for the hospital to use as it chooses, on operating expenses, education, and social services.



The **Lenox Hill Neighborhood House** (212-744-5022; lenoxhill.org), a multiservice community center, helps up to 20,000 people annually—the homeless, single parents, needy kids, and the homebound elderly. Programs range from support centers for teens and seniors to transitional housing for the homeless to ESL and computer classes for adults. Fundraisers like the annual Holiday Bazaar at Sotheby's are hot tickets.

Founded in 1988, the **Robin Hood Foundation** (212-227-6601; robinhood.org) finds and funds more than 100 programs around the city that combat poverty and its causes. A board of directors that includes Harvey Weinstein and Gwyneth Paltrow underwrites operating expenses, so 100 percent of the monies donated go to food banks, charter schools, domestic-violence programs, and the like.



Give to the **NYU Medical Center** (212-404-3640; nyumedicalcenter.org) and you'll help fund cutting-edge research and general patient care at the hospital. For those who are interested in the actual science, a donation of $1,000 or more grants access to the center's lecture series.

The **Parkinson's Disease Foundation** (800-457-6656; pdf.org) gives funding to scientists working for a cure to the neurological disorder. The majority of monies go toward research, but the foundation also distributes information on support groups, clinical specialists, and other foundations.

ANIMAL AID

The Animal Medical Center (212-838-8100; amcny.org), a 92-year-old nonprofit veterinary hospital, tends to over 65,000 four-legged patients annually. Donations go toward research—no harm to animals, of course—as well as running the hospital and its postgraduate education program.

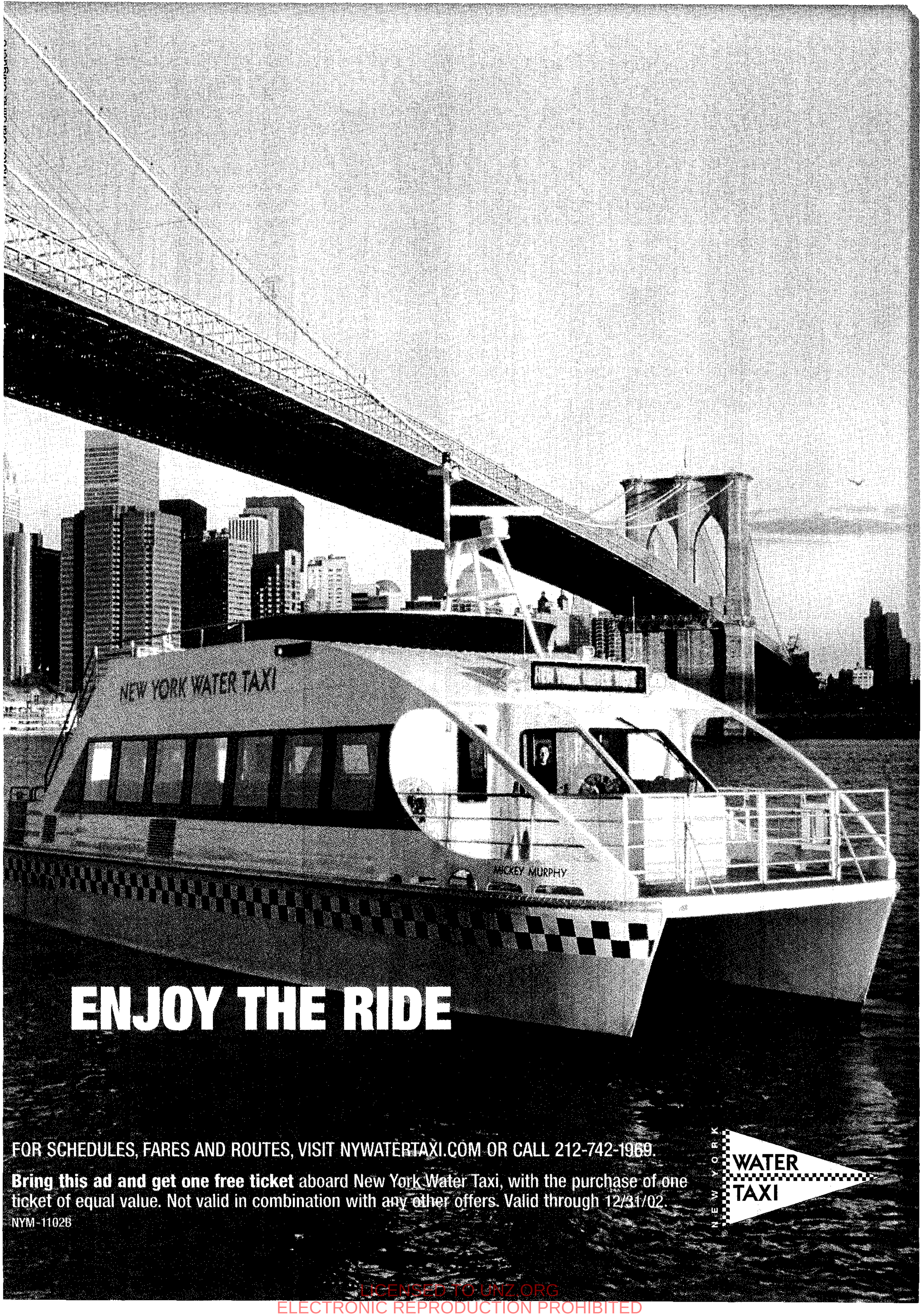
Kitty Kind (212-726-2652; kittykind.org), a no-kill, all-volunteer cat-rescue-and-adoption group, finds homes for up to 2,000 cats a year. Not a shelter, the group instead deposits felines directly from the pound and the street into temporary foster homes. Every penny donated goes to medical care and food.

Harlem's abandoned, abused, or neglected "junkyard dogs" have a champion in **Sentient Creatures** (212-865-5998; sentientcreatures.org). All donations go to food, shelter, and medical care, plus they'll actually pay *you* $50 a week to provide a temporary home to a pup waiting for permanent adoption.

FOOD AND SHELTER

Volunteering at a soup kitchen over the holidays is a tradition in many families, but if you can't make it yourself, you can still help out. Give to **City Meals on Wheels** (212-687-

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JORGE COLOMBO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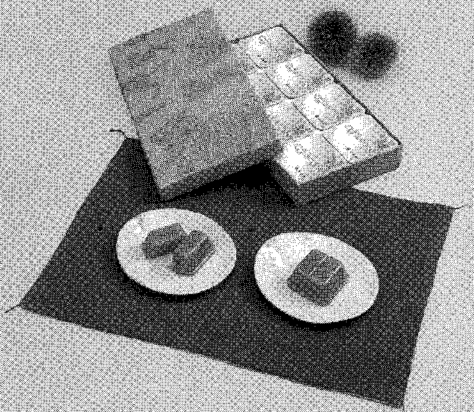

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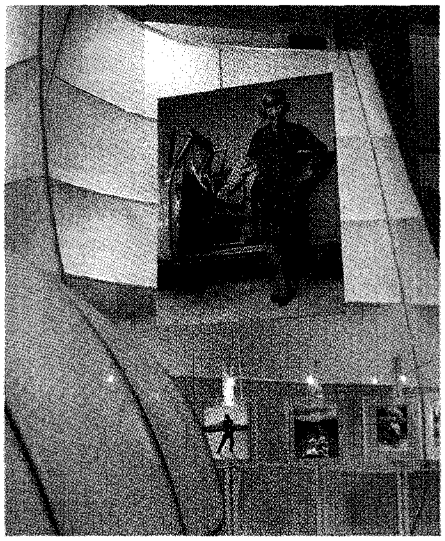

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1234; citymeals.org), a group with a network of 120 centers around the city serving mostly low-income, homebound people. Every bit of money you give them will be put toward meal preparation (they do not take food donations) and delivery.

City Harvest (917-351-8700; cityharvest.org) collects 16 million pounds of unused food every year from restaurants, corporations, and Greenmarkets, and gets it to those who need it, from single-parent families and senior citizens to soup kitchens and food-relief centers. Money goes toward truck maintenance and delivery costs.

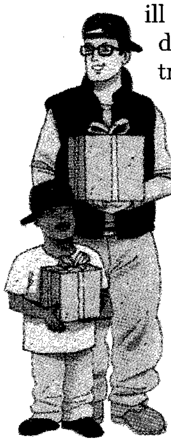
To help provide shelter, consider giving to the **Partnership for the Homeless** (212-645-3444; partnershipforthehomeless.org), a volunteer-run group that joins forces with churches, synagogues, and mosques around the city, maintaining 100 small overnight emergency shelters. The **Bowery Mission** (212-684-2800; bowery.org) offers its 62 beds to homeless men who are recovering drug and alcohol addicts. The organization offers meals, showers, clothing, and career counseling.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Kids' charities may not be able to create a carefree childhood, but they can supply necessary aid and programs for the city's children in need. **Variety—the Children's Charity** (212-760-2777; varietyny.org) funds pediatric services in inner-city hospitals, special-education programs, and after-school activities.

One of the nation's oldest and largest kids' programs, the **Children's Aid Society** (212-949-4936; childrensaidsociety.org) strives to improve the lives of the 120,000 families it serves annually with recreation programs, academic tutoring, and medical resources.

Make-a-Wish Foundation (516-944-6212; wish.org/metrony) grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. The program was founded 22 years ago after a terminally ill boy in Arizona—who dreamed of being a state trooper—inspired his community to get him a motorcycle and a tiny uniform and arrange for him to spend one day on patrol.



Nearly a century old, **Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC** (212-686-2042; bigsnyc.org) provides long-term one-on-one mentoring for 7- to 17-year-old kids from single-parent families and underserved

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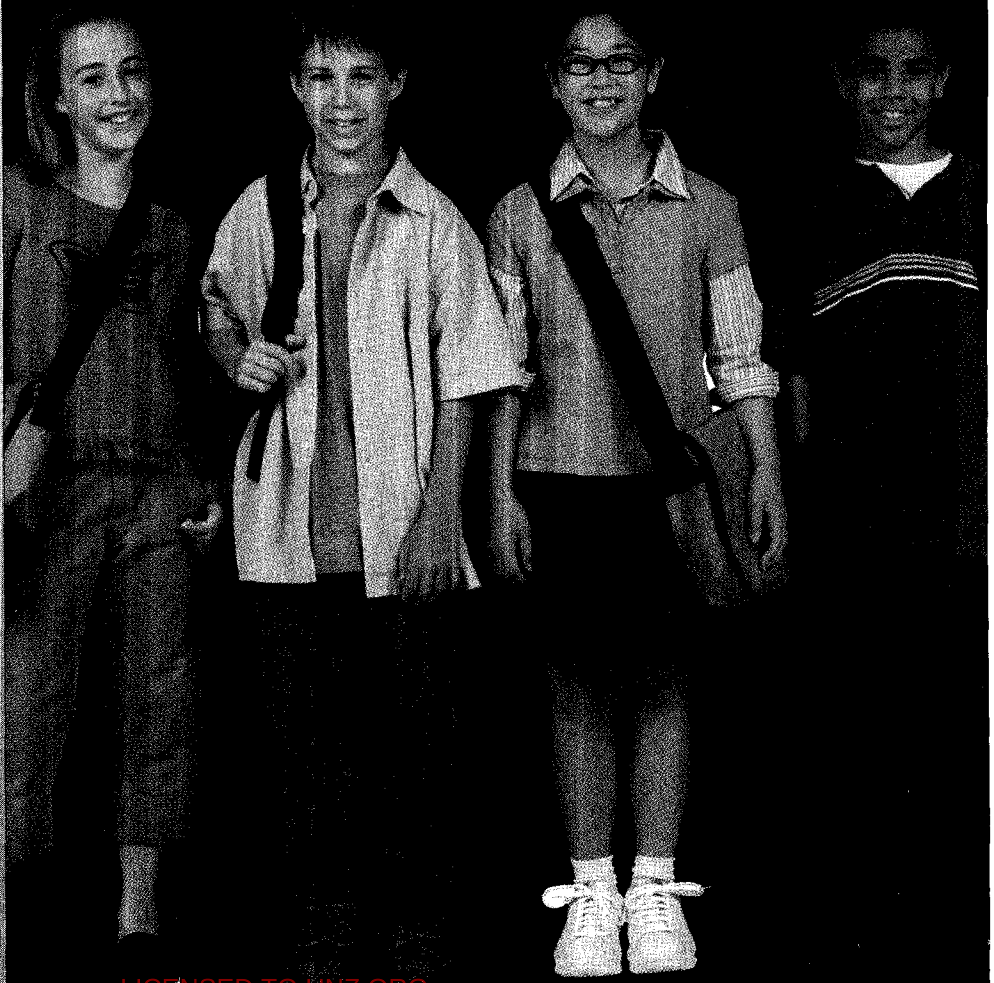

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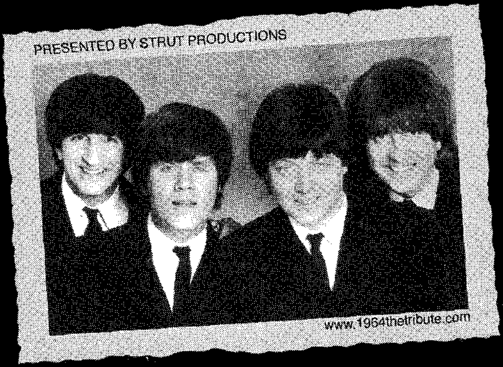

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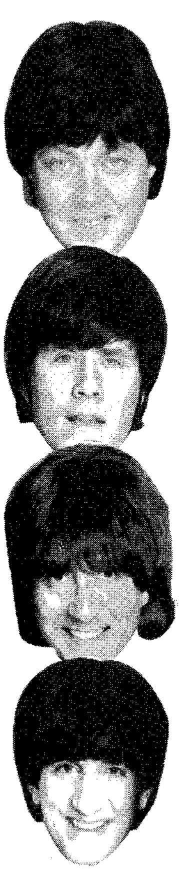

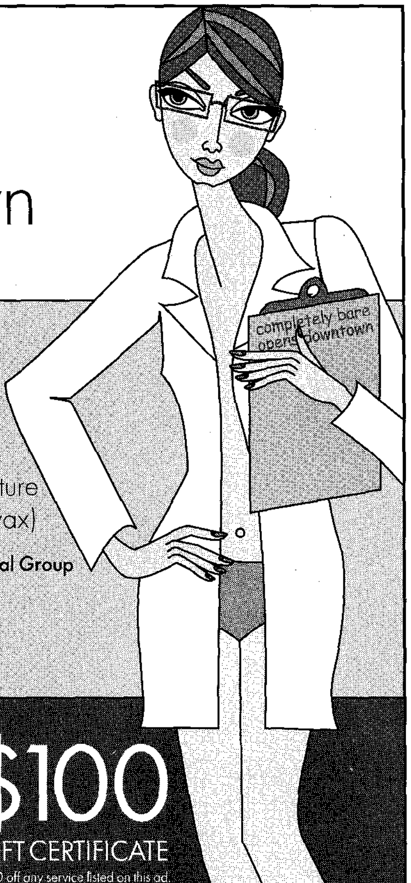

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communities. Donations go toward matching kids with volunteers, who mentor children in schools and the juvenile-justice system or are assigned "littles" to take on cultural, educational, and recreational outings.

Established in 1995, **PENCIL** (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement in Learning; 646-638-0565; pencil.org) is an educational nonprofit that encourages the private sector to get involved in the city's public schools. Their Principal for a Day program invites celebs and CEOs to visit schools and create partnerships with them, like providing management advice or starting scholarship funds. All proceeds target specific school needs, ranging from library books to refurbished playgrounds.

HIV- AND AIDS-RELATED CHARITIES

Established in 1982, **Gay Men's Health Crisis** (212-367-1585; gmhc.org) offers counseling and legal aid to anyone infected with HIV or AIDS. An outgrowth of ACT UP, **Housing Works** (212-967-1500; housingworks.org) has many services for homeless (or formerly homeless) people living with HIV and AIDS. Programs include needle exchange, mental-health services, legal aid, advocacy, and job training.

God's Love We Deliver (212-294-8146; godslovewedeliver.org) arranges for top chefs to prepare gourmet meals in the company's Soho kitchen, then delivers the food to people living with HIV and AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses in all five boroughs and parts of New Jersey.

UMBRELLA ORGANIZATIONS

New York Cares (212-228-5000; nycares.org) enlists tens of thousands of volunteers annually and works with hundreds of nonprofits and public organizations (schools, libraries, parks) to help diagnose the needs of communities and link projects with the appropriate manpower. Giving money to the organization benefits everyone from public-school children and the elderly to the homeless, hospital patients, and people living with HIV and AIDS.

For more information, log on to the **charity guide** at www.nymetro.com/charities. The site has links to various needy organizations throughout the city, categorized by cause and by neighborhood, as well as pages on World Trade Center charities and "unusual ways to give." ■

Additional reporting by Jada Yuan and Leanne Shear.

the holidays begin "IN" New York.

IN New York celebrates the season with a tantalizing look at the finest array of gifts for friends and family alike. From chic attire, to fabulous jewels, gourmet delicacies for holiday entertaining, and artful luxuries for the home, *IN New York* is stocked for the season!

Don't miss out on the November and December special holiday gift-giving issues of *IN New York*, available at more than 200 locations around the City. Regardless of which holiday you celebrate, the following shops can fulfill any wish list this season:

Chelsea/Garment District/ Theater District

An American Craftsman –
60 West 50th St. – **307-7161**
B&H Photo-Video –
34th St. @ Ninth Ave. – **444-6615**
Macy's –
Broadway @ 34th Street – **695-4400**
Tourneau –
Seventh Ave. & 34th St. – **800-348-3332**
Toys "R" Us -Flagship Store –
The Center of the Toy Universe
Times Square/1514 Broadway
(btw. 44th/45th Sts.) – **800-TOYSRUS**

Midtown East

Allen-Edmonds – *24 East 44th St.* – **682-3144**
Allure Day Spa – *139 East 55th St.* – **644-5500**
Continental Galleries –
519 Lexington Ave. – **888-2111**
Eastern Computer –
425 Madison Ave. – **838-8331**
Escada – *715 Fifth Ave.* – **755-2200**
Extraordinary – *251 East 57th St.* – **223-9151**
Le Cachet Holistic Spa –
39 East 30th St. – **448-9823**
Nohra Haime Gallery –
41 East 57th St. – **888-3550**
Oasis on Park – *One Park Ave.* – **254-7722**
Rehs Galleries – *5 East 57th St.* – **355-5710**
The Shops at Grand Central Terminal –
42nd St. & Park Ave. – **340-2210**
Tiffany & Co. –
Fifth Ave. & 57th St. – **800-526-0649**
Tourneau TimeMachine –
Madison Ave. & 57th St. –
800-348-3332
TUMI – *Madison Ave. & 54th St.* –
813-0545
Turnbull & Asser –
42 East 47th St. –
752-5700

Midtown West

Aaron Faber Gallery –
666 Fifth Ave. – **586-8411**
An American Craftsman –
790 Seventh Ave. – **399-2555**
Faina European Day Spa –
315 West 57th St. – **245-6557**
Joan Whalen Fine Art –
24 West 57th St. – **397-9700**
Lladro – *43 West 57th St.* – **838-9356**
Mai – *48 West 39th St* – **719-3888**
NBA Entertainment –
666 Fifth Ave. – **515-6221**
Rochester Big & Tall –
1301 Ave. of the Americas – **247-7500**
Silver Star Spa – *6 West 48th St.* – **921-8858**
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Chelsea/Gramercy/Greenwich Village/ Financial District/SoHo

American Express "Rewarding Lives" –
200 Vesey St.
An American Craftsman –
Grove & Bleecker Sts. – **727-0841**
Bond 07 by Selima – *7 Bond St.* – **677-8487**
Cast Iron Gallery –
159 Mercer St. – **274-8624**
Century 21 – *22 Cortlandt St.* – **227-9092**
CFM Gallery – *112 Greene St.* – **966-3864**
Coda Gallery – *472 Broome St.* – **334-0407**
Grant Gallery – *7 Mercer St.* – **343-2919**
Oasis Day Spa – *108 East 16th St.* – **254-7722**
S.E. Feinman Fine Arts, Ltd. –
448 Broome St. – **431-6820**
Selima Optique SoHo –
59 Wooster St. – **343-9490**
The Showplace –
40 West 25th St. – **633-6063**
Spa Sun – *26 West 20th St.* – **337-0022**
Stardust Antiques –
38 Gramercy Park – **677-2590**
Ventilo – *69 Greene St.* – **625-3660**

Upper East Side

Ajune – *1294 Third Ave.* – **628-0044**
Allen-Edmonds –
551 Madison Ave. – **308-8305**
Bloomingdale's –
59th St. & Lexington Ave. – **705-2098**
Flying Cranes Antiques, Ltd. –
1050 Second Ave. – **223-4600**
Geiger – *505 Park Ave.* – **644-3435**
Georg Jensen –
683 Madison Ave. – **759-6457**
Isabella Day Spa –
794 Lexington Ave. – **832-0431**
Ito En Tea Store –
822 Madison Ave. – **988-7111**
Janet Sartin Spa – *500 Park Ave.* – **751-5858**
Jeanmarie Gallery –
1057 Second Ave. – **486-8150**
Laura Fisher Antique Quilts & Americana –
1050 Second Ave. – **838-2596**
Luba Salon – *811 Lexington Ave.* – **752-0087**
Manhattan Art & Antiques Center –
1050 Second Ave. – **355-4400**
Selima Optique – *899 Madison Ave.* – **988-6690**
String – *1015 Madison Ave.* – **288-YARN**
Ventilo – *810 Madison Ave.* – **535-9362**
Zitomer – *969 Madison Ave.* – **737-5560**

Upper West Side

Bonne Nuit – *30 Lincoln Plaza* –
Children – **262-7740**
Lingerie – **489-9730**
Daphne – *467 Amsterdam Ave.* – **877-5073**
La Belle Epoque –
280 Columbus Ave. – **362-1770**
Performing Arts Shop at Lincoln Center –
136 West 65th St. – **917-441-1195**
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153 West 58th St. – **586-2998**

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Setting Sales

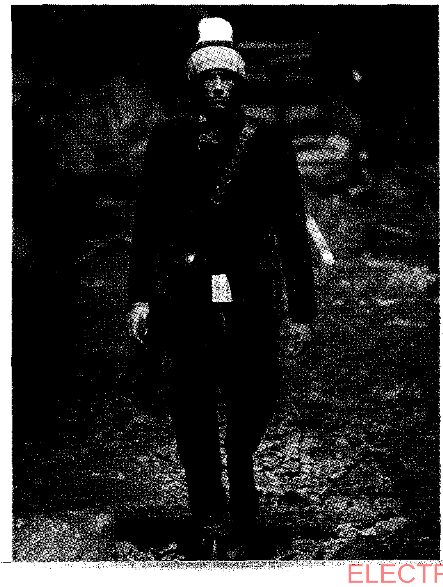
From cashmere at cost to throwaway-price throw pillows, we've got the scoop on the week's best steals.

MIKE & ALLY HAS PRETty bath and home accessories—tissue holders, wastebaskets, knickknacks for your counter—for up to 70 percent off what you'd pay in stores; hand towels are from $5. 350 Seventh Ave., near 29th St., No. 802 (212-563-5433); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/25-11/27, 12/2-12/6, 12/9-12/13 (11-6).

Staff International, the wholesale showroom for Diesel sportswear, is clearing the company's fabulous, just-trendy-enough denim, coats, sweaters, and much more for a mere $50 to $400. 495 Broadway, near Spring St., eighth fl. (646-613-8457); cash only; 11/20 and 11/21 (11-7).

Katayone Adeli is one of the fashion crowd's favorite sources for edgy, sleek, downtown-chic women's basics, eveningwear, and coats. Now, she's clearing her fall and winter collection for half off; silk turtlenecks are $134; trench coats are $449. 35 Bond St. (212-260-3500); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20-12/15 (Mon.-Sat. 11-7).

FRINGE BENEFITS: Half-price D Squared menswear from the Staff International sale.



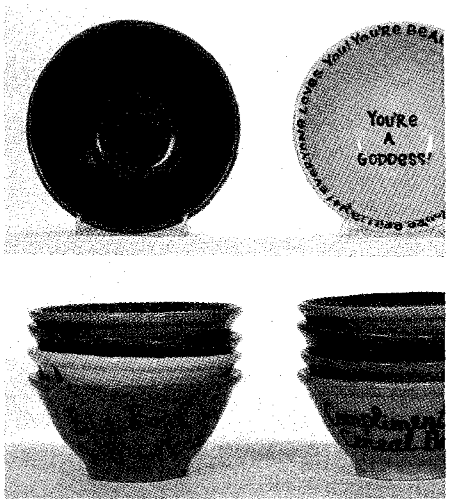
Elizabeth Gillett's handknit wool mufflers, wraps, ponchos, and more (you've seen her designs at stores like Henri Bendel and Takashimaya) are now up to half off the original prices, from $30 to $125 (they're usually from $50 to $250). 237 W. 35th St., Ste. 304 (212-629-7993); M.C., V.; 11/20 and 11/21 (11-7); 11/22 (11-6).

TSE's legendary annual sample sale means that the company's luxurious sweaters, cashmere separates, and lots more can be yours for up to 70 percent off—if you're willing to line up with the crowds! Sweaters for men and women are from $50 to $300. 452 W. 15th St. (917-606-6795); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20-11/22 (10-6); 11/23 (10-6); 11/24 (11-5).

Manuel Canovas, known for his sexy swimwear, is debuting his new sportswear collection, with lots of fabulous rainy-day pieces. You'll find paisley-print rubber boots, velvet totes, and printed jackets for half the regular prices (on sale for $80 to $200). 530 Seventh Ave., near 38th St., Ste. 2802 (914-381-1843); cash only; 11/20-11/22 (9:30-5:30).

Calvin Klein's sleek, stylish, very well-made clothes and accessories for men and women are available at the sample and stock sale for up to 70 percent off what you'd pay in stores. 20 W. 57th St., sixth fl. (877-579-0222); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20 (9-6:30); 11/21 (10-7); 11/22 (10-6:30); 11/23 (10-4).

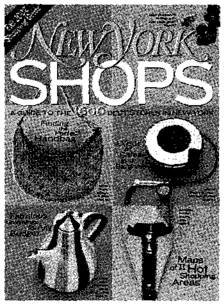
Liz Lange's sharp urban maternity clothing—a favorite of expecting fashion editors—is on sale at Lange's showroom for $15 to $75—less than half what you'd pay in the store. 315 W. 36th St., seventh fl. (212-879-2191); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/21 and 11/22 (8-6:30).



BRIGHTEN UP: Bowls from Our Name Is Mud's sale ($8 each).

Metropolitan Design Group, the showroom for loads of cool fashion and home accessories from designers like Paige Novick, Angel Zimick, Tocca, and others is now clearing original samples for 40 to 60 percent off the regular prices; Colette Malouf hair accessories are from $5. 80 W. 40th St., sixth fl. (212-944-6110); cash only; 11/20 and 11/21 (8-7); 11/22 (8-4).

Gerard Yosca is taking 50 to 80 percent off all his glittery, festive semiprecious-stone-and-crystal-adorned jewelry. Prices start at about $10 for a pair of small earrings and top out around $75 for a one-of-a-kind necklace. 39 W. 38th St., tenth fl. (212-302-4349); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20-11/26 and 12/2-12/6 (10-6).



Check out the fall 2002 issue of **New York Shops**, our guide to the city's best stores, including a year's worth of "Sales & Bargains." On sale at newsstands now. To order a copy, call 800-496-7833 ($4.99 plus $2 shipping and handling).

IN THE WOOL: TSE sweaters ($119 each).

Philippe Adec's sample sale means that covetable women's work basics—sleek shirts and jackets, and very stylish suit separates—are available for more than half off the usual prices. Knitwear is from $45, pants are from $88, and shirts are from $50. 209 W. 38th St., second fl. (212-391-8070); cash only; 11/21-11/22 (9-7); 11/23 (11-5).

Gabrielle Carlson has sweet, feminine slip dresses and tanks as well as evening ensembles for men—all reduced by 30 to 50 percent. Prices start at $90 for a bias-cut charmeuse tank. 23 Commerce St. (212-929-0234); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20 (4-8); 11/21 (5-9).

Devereux-Ferguson LLC's traditional down-filled decorative throw pillows are on sale for up to 60 percent off. Prices start at $45. 304 W. 90th St. (212-362-3761); A.E.; 11/22 and 11/23 (9-6).

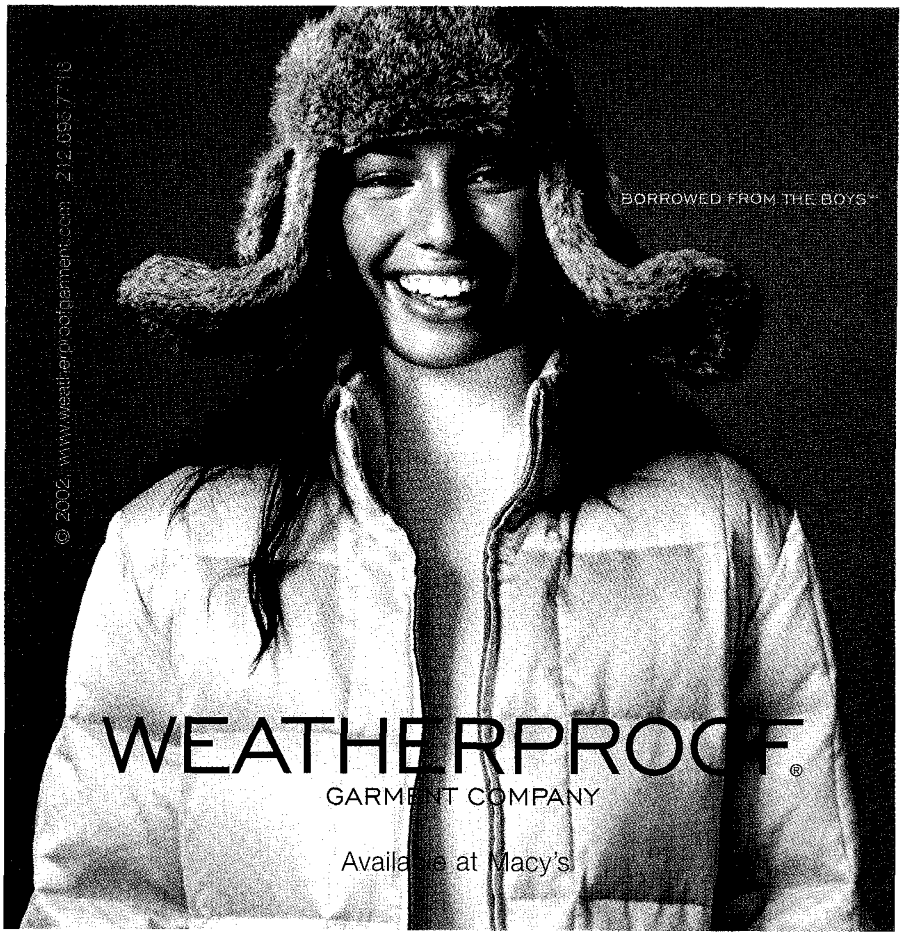
Versace's wildly colorful men's, women's, and children's clothes and accessories are at least 60 percent off at the sample sale. Prices range from $30 to $1,000. The Metropolitan Pavilion, 110 W. 19th St. (212-813-0190); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/20-11/22 (noon-7); 11/23 (10-5).

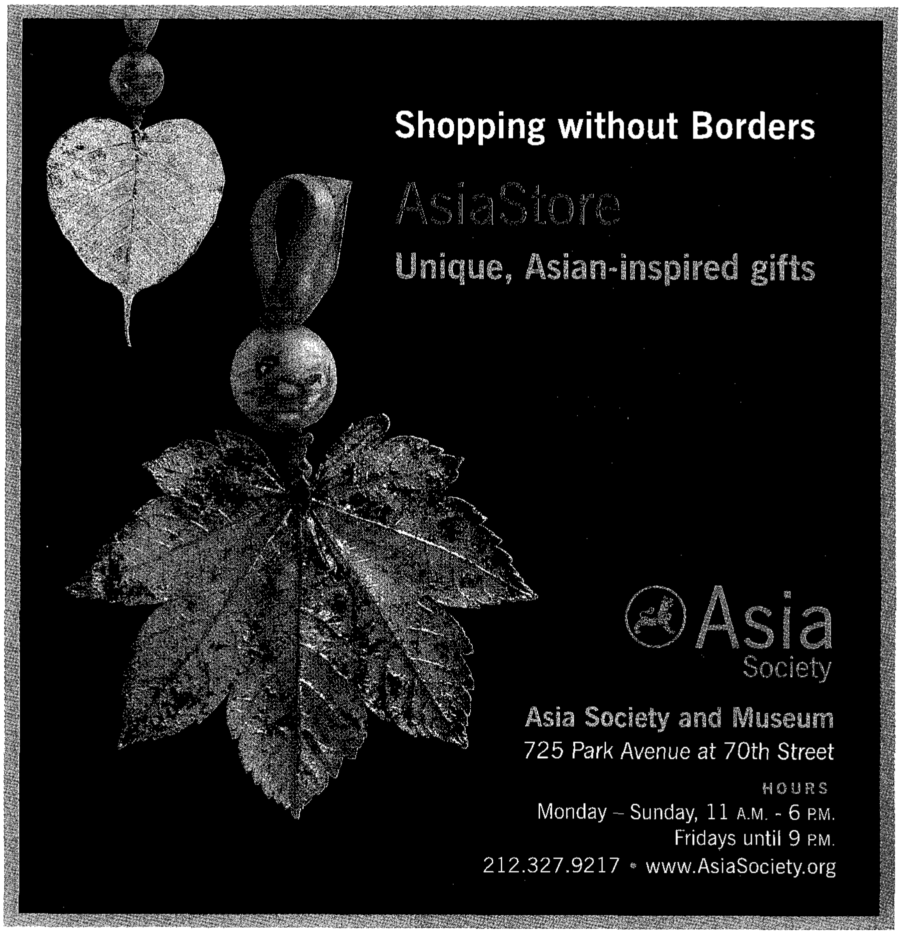
A Loomful of Hues is offering the public its one-of-a-kind rugs at the 20 percent to-the-trade discount (prices are usually $60 per square foot). 515 Greenwich St., No. 407 (212-691-2977); M.C., V.; 11/21-11/24 (noon-8).

Le Fanion is offering a bit of the French countryside in the heart of Greenwich Village. The company's Provençal home furnishings and accessories will be available for half the usual prices; dinner plates are $20. 299 W. 4th St. (212-463-8760); cash only; 11/22 and 11/23 (11-6).

G-III leather outerwear for men and women is 40 to 60 percent off. Prices start at $79 for a bomber jacket and go up to $2,000 for a long shearling. 119 W. 40th St. (212-403-0503); A.E., M.C., V.; 11/21, 11/22, 11/25-11/27, 11/29,12/2-12/6, 12/9-12/13, 12/16-12/20, 12/23 (11-6).

Our Name Is Mud's funky, handpainted pottery—tableware, vases, and more—is 70 percent off; serving platters were $50 to $60, now $10 to $20. 227 W. 29th St., third fl. (212-904-1171); cash only; 11/21 and 11/22 (10-5); 11/23 and 11/24 (11-4). ■

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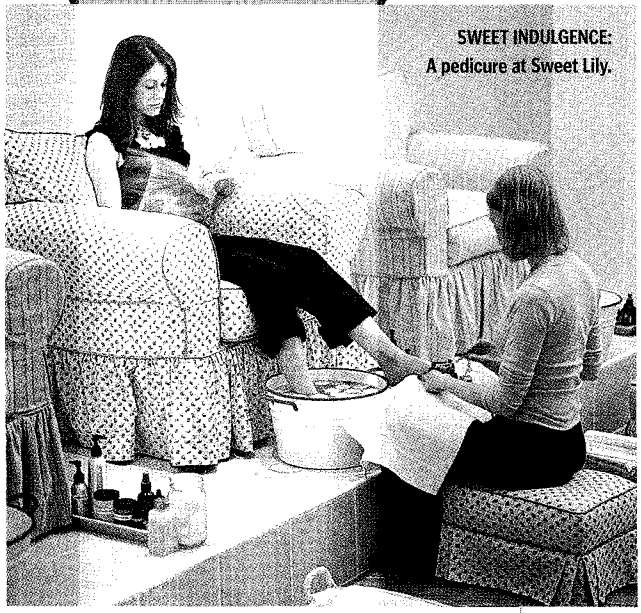
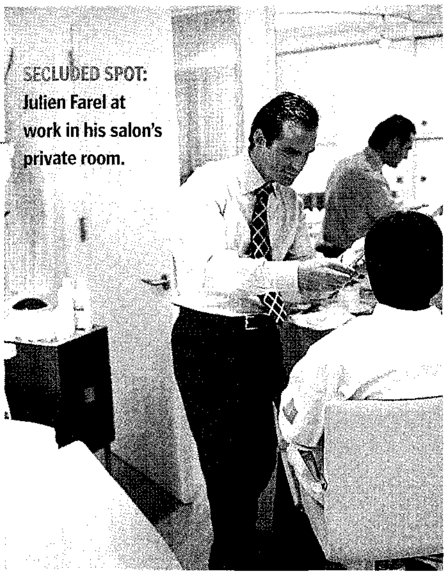


SWEET INDULGENCE: A pedicure at Sweet Lily.



SECLUDED SPOT: Julien Farel at work in his salon's private room.

Perennial Beauty

There must be some link between sinking stocks and the need for pampering—new salons and spas are popping up all over. Sweet Lily (222 West Broadway; 212-925-5441), which opened this month, offers only natural manicures—no acrylics and formaldehyde-free polish (along with the traditional Essie colors). There's a honey-walnut pedicure, which starts with a warm-milk-and-almond-oil soak, followed up with a mask containing walnuts ground on the premises. There's also a cooling and soothing fresh-cucumber-and-peppermint pedicure and a hot lavender manicure, which uses a lavender-scented sugar exfoliant. At the opposite end of the spectrum is the tri-level Aesthetic Institute of New York (44 East 65th Street, Suite 1A; 212-628-6464), a combination spa and facial plastic-surgery center, which features facials and massages with a garden view, as well as lasers and even face-lifts.

Private Treatment

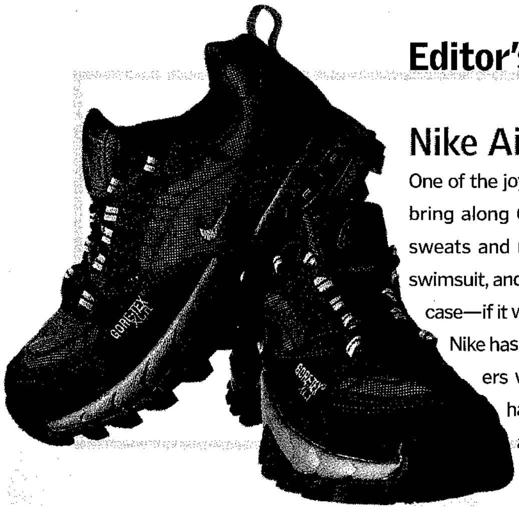
With New York's six degrees of separation, it's only a matter of time before you encounter someone you know in a beauty salon—just as you're getting foil put in your hair. But personal beauty maintenance doesn't have to be available for public viewing. Several places have private rooms in which you can straighten, color, and highlight to your heart's content, away from the inquisitive eyes of everyone but your stylist. Paul Labrecque Salon & Spa (171 East 65th Street; 212-988-7816) has a frosted-glass-enclosed, mirrored enclave, complete with coloring and straightening facilities. At Julien Farel (605 Madison Avenue, near 57th Street; 212-888-8988), the room is outfitted with recessed lights, computers for Internet access, and a shampoo chair with a massage unit. Rodolfo Valentin (1020 Madison Avenue, near 78th Street, third floor; 212-327-4227) offers a little oasis with piped-in music that overlooks the boutiques of Madison. And at Salon À Deux (1117 Madison Avenue, near 83rd Street; 212-628-7505), on Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas they throw in complimentary champagne and caviar. Best of all? The privacy comes at no extra charge. But be advised, you must reserve ahead, particularly during holiday season. According to Julien Farel manager Jimmy Vanegas, "These rooms tend to be booked up with VIPs or men embarrassed to get their hair dyed in front of women."

RED ALERT: From left, lipstick from Chanel, Estée Lauder, Delux, and L'Oréal.

Cheery Red

True red lipstick may be too intense for summer or early fall, but the holiday season is just the time to get in touch with your inner vamp. There is suddenly a wealth of new reds to choose from. Estée Lauder just introduced Pure Color Gloss in Cherry ($20 at Macy's and Lord & Taylor). Clinique is offering a limited-edition shade, Moisture Surge Lipstick SPF 15 in Scarlet ($12.50 at Bloomingdale's); Chanel's Hydrabase Lipstick is available in Pirate ($21.50; available now at Saks Fifth Avenue and gloss.com); Delux lipstick now comes in Clovis ($18 at Sephora and Henri Bendel); and, for a more subtle blush, there's L'Oréal Glass Shine lip gloss in Chrome Red ($8.25 at all drugstores). Careful about standing too near the mistletoe.

Editor's Pick



Nike Air Yachats XCR

One of the joys of taking a spa vacation is how little you have to bring along (the Golden Door famously supplies T-shirts and sweats and recommends bringing nothing but a toothbrush, swimsuit, and footwear). Your carry-on *could* be as light as a briefcase—if it weren't for those ten-pound hiking boots. This season, Nike has introduced the Air Yachats XCR, sturdy hiking sneakers with great tread. They are waterproof, breathable, half the weight of boots, and eminently packable. ($85 at Niketown, 6 East 57th Street; 212-891-6453.)

PHOTOGRAPHS: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, CARINA SALVI; LISA SHIN (2), CARINA SALVI.

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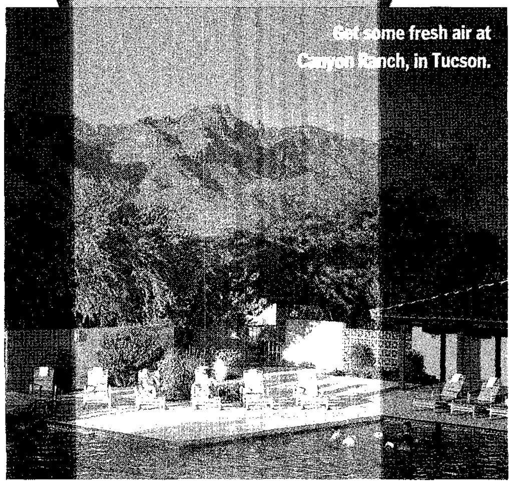
Travel

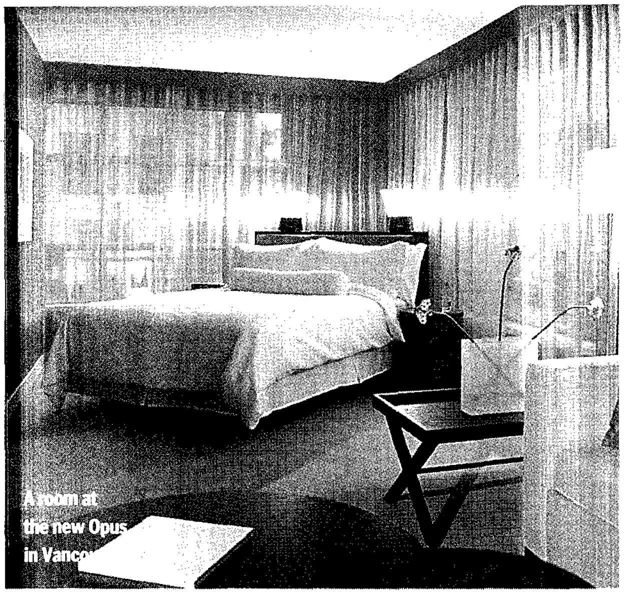
TARA MANDY



Get some fresh air at Canyon Ranch, in Tucson.

Kick Butts

Now that Bloomberg has declared war on cigarettes, you might want to use your vacation time to start shaping up—instead of lighting up. These days, resorts and destinations are adding "smoking cessation" services to their pool, tennis, and water-sport offerings. The Duke Diet & Fitness Center in Durham (800-235-3853; from $4,885 per person for two weeks), the Hilton Head Health Institute (800-292-2440; from $2,395 per week), and both Canyon Ranch locations, in the Berkshires and in Tucson (800-742-9000; from $1,864 for four nights), have tobacco-addict treatments like acupuncture, movement therapy, and exercise physiology. Not tough enough? Carnival has just launched a week-long "Quit Smoking" Caribbean cruise, where you'll be fined $250 if you're caught taking a puff; the next ship sets sail from Miami on December 1 (866-512-2777; from $619). And the new Spa Atlantis in Pompano Beach, Florida, now offers quitters a seven-day seminar beginning January 10 (800-583-3500; from $1,762). BETSY GOLDBERG



A room at the new Opus in Vanco

Canada Fly

It's taken Canada a while to catch on to the boutique-hotel craze, but this winter, our northern neighbors are making up for lost time—most recently with Opus, a swank 97-room hotel that just opened in Vancouver. Common areas are jazzed up with furnishings by designers ranging from Eames to Starck to Nienkämper, and the guest rooms are grouped into five different décor schemes, based on the tastes of fictional characters like Susan, a Blahnik addict; Mike the Saab-driving doctor; and Bob and Carol, an outdoorsy dot-com couple from San Francisco (866-642-6787 or opushotel.com; from $95). And this February, look for Toronto's first two trendy boutiques: Hotel Le Germain, where guests can buy just about anything they find in their rooms, from mattresses and duvets to glasses and bathrobes (866-345-9501 or hotelboutique.com; from $144), and the 88-room Soho Metropolitan, which will feature a full-service health club and spa and an over-the-top Chihuly installation in the lobby (416-597-6327 or metropolitan.com; from $189).

Deals on Wheels

Everyone loves a bargain. But to be honest, hotel packages bore us silly: Free breakfast? Yawn. A complimentary bottle of champagne? Whoop-dee-do. But when the toss-in comes with four wheels and a V-8 engine, well, that's another story. A few Los Angeles hotels that will put you in the driver's seat of a ride to match your swank digs: At the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica, $419 a night buys you a deluxe ocean-view room and use of a Mercedes SLK or BMW 323; $449 gets you a Porsche Boxter; and for $1,669, you can tool around in a Bentley (800-441-1414; through the end of 2003). Over in Beverly Hills, a room at Maison 140 comes with a BMW Mini Cooper and free parking for $259 a night, through the end of this year (800-432-5444); and Avalon's "Classic Holiday Package" includes accommodations for two, overnight parking, and the use of a T-bird convertible for $298 nightly (from November 28 to December 30; 800-535-4715).

DEAL OF THE WEEK

The Ocean Key Resort, nestled between Key West's harbor and its historic downtown, is offering *New York* readers 20 percent off an ocean-view room, plus a free dinner for two, if you stay four nights in December (800-328-9815 or oceankey.com; rates from $329 a night, based on availability).

etc.

RESTAURANT NEWS Palm Beach's historic Brazilian Court hotel is freshening up with new condos, a new pool, a new spa, a new screening room, and—the best part—a new Café Boulud, opening in March (doubles from $390; 561-838-4445). **SWEET DREAMS** The Four Seasons Resort Nevis—a longtime playground for America's head honchos—is adding a full-service spa in December. The 12,000-square-foot facility will resemble the island's early sugar plantations and will incorporate coconut, sugarcane, and rum—all past Nevis exports—into its treatments (800-332-3442). **TEE TIME** This week, Zagat introduces its first golf survey, a guide to more than 1,000 courses in the United States and the Caribbean. Each property is rated on its course, clubhouse, service, and value ($14.95). **SMALL WONDERS** The skin-conscious set has been lining up for DDF's anti-sun-damage products for years. Now mini-bottles of the blocks, aloes, and post-sun remedies are available in convenient, Spa on the Go travel kits ($25 each at DDFskin.com).

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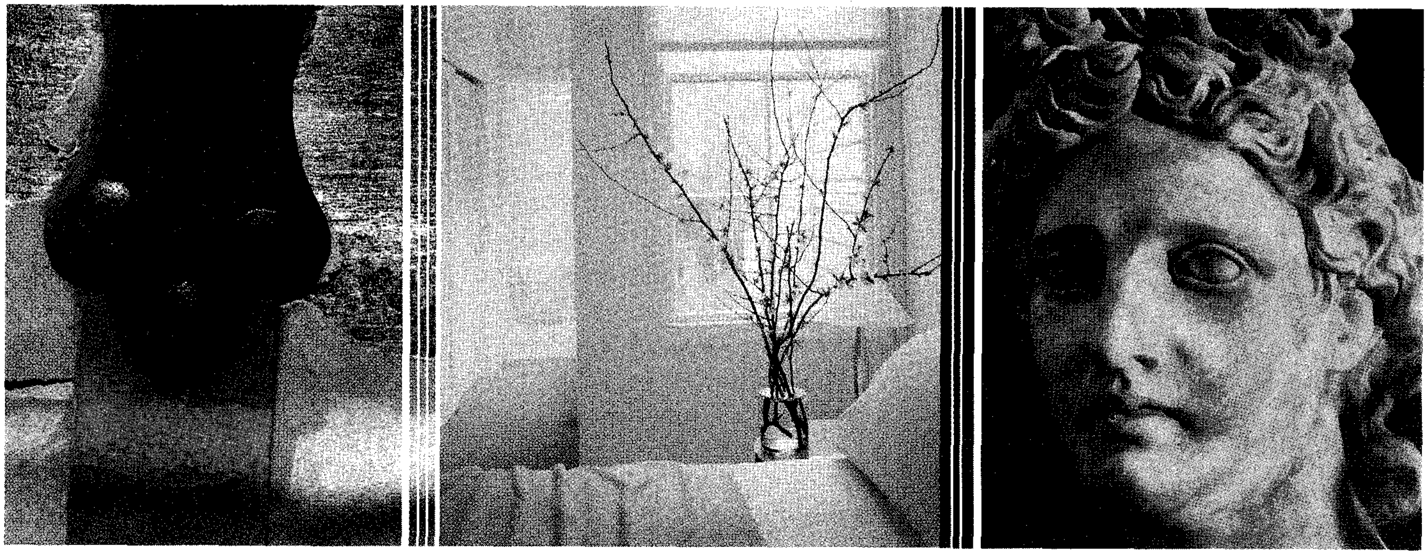
ART, ANTIQUES & INTERIORS



FURNISHING THE NEST

It's no surprise that home-furnishings stores seem to be popping up on every corner, that more and more fashion designers are putting their imprint on everything from tabletop accessories to living room furniture, or that one could furnish an entire apartment without leaving home. We all work harder and longer than ever before. We need and want welcoming nests where we can unwind, entertain and, more often than not, work.

A new approach—less formal, more fun and very idiosyncratic—has taken over. It's visible in everything from the way we combine china patterns to the way we mix styles of furniture. Whether it's vintage or Deco, space age or Victorian, flea market or fine, our home decor is, increasingly, as expressive as our fashion. The good news is that price-wise and geographically, nearly everything we covet is within our reach here in New York. Walk the streets, go online, talk to experts, read publications. Never before have we had so much from which to choose and enjoy.

JUST DO IT

When renovating or redecorating, there's no one way to begin. Some people start with their art collection, others with a favorite color, still others with an inherited antique. One theory holds that you begin with the rug, then work your way up. If this suits your style, a must-see shop is **Dolma**. "People today want color," says owner Yeshi Choden. The rugs—made in Nepal by Tibetan refugees and Nepalese natives using ancient, time-honored methods—range from apartment sized to mansion sized. Woven of sheep's wool, they're colored and patterned with vegetable dyes. Says Choden, “We're delighted to collaborate with clients or their decorators to create a piece of art for the home.” **417 Lafayette St., 212-460-5525**

CLEAR ON DESIGN, but have no time? Merging two households? An interior designer can solve such problems and open a world of possibilities. **Pamela Ludwick** listens, suggests, encourages risk-taking—and as a resident, understands a city dweller's needs better than most. “The perfect room reflects not just who you are,” she says, “but the very best of what you are.” Known for the eclectic mix of cross-cultural furniture, artwork and accessories she uses, Ludwick creates havens that are not only pleasing to the eye, but to the soul. **220 E. 63rd. St., 212-832-8689; www.pamelaludwick.com**

“WITH THE STOCK MARKET on a rollercoaster ride, more people are investing in real estate or staying put and redecorating,” says Judy Block of **Designer Referral Service of New York**. Block works in hands-on fashion, interviewing clients in their current environment because “the nuances one picks up there are important and often can't be expressed.” Once she assesses the possibilities, Block creates a laptop presentation of the architects' and designers' work. “The system eliminates surprises and produces great results.” **212-971-9681 or 914-234-0190; www.drsnyltd.com**

ROOM TO SPARE

Whether yours is a classic six or a studio, you probably don't have enough space. Leave it to **Design & Comfort** to provide the perfect solution with contemporary furniture for every room. “We're 100 percent city-oriented,” notes head interior designer Lolita Cohen. Among the store's most ingenious space-savers, middle- to high-end in cost, and gathered from around the world, is a bookcase unit that swivels 180° to reveal a bed. Among the trends Cohen sees are lacquer and chrome. “We're moving toward sheen and shine, whether it's a fabulous lamp, the exposed metal structure of a chair or the finish on a wall unit.” For those preferring to work with an expert, the design service is efficient and attentive, and its small retainer fee is applied to the purchase.

440 Park Ave. South, 212-679-9088
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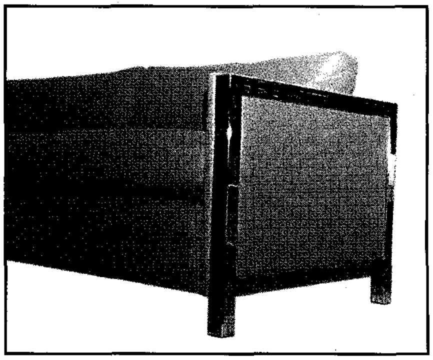
www.designandcomfort.com

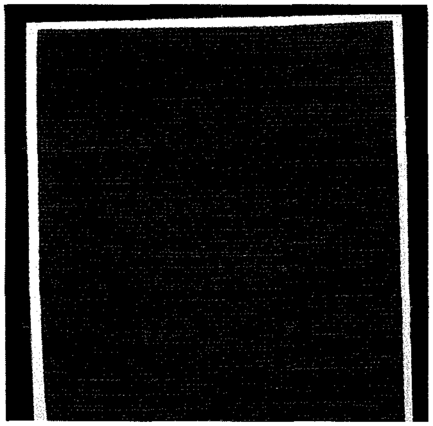
A WARM WELCOME

The “hearth” of most city apartments is the sofa. Family and friends nestle into it, pull chairs and hassocks up to it, gravitate toward it. With a season of entertaining upon us, perhaps now is the time for a new one. **Carlyle Convertibles** is offering 10 to 60 percent off a large selection of new pieces in its clearance center. From chairs and ottomans to sofas and sofa beds, there's immediate delivery on one-of-a-kind styles in a range of styles, fabrics and sizes. “People want to get a lot of value for their money and they want things to last,” says Carlyle president Darren De Matteo. Sofas with chrome-plated or brushed-steel arms are catching on fast and look great with many styles. The powder-coated color exudes a warm glow, expressing itself in any number of ways depending upon the upholstery. **Classic Collection, 1056 Third Ave., 212-838-1525; Studio Collection, 1375 Third Ave., 212-570-2236;**
Custom Clearance, 122 West 18th St., 212-675-3212; www.carlylesofa.com

WORK IN STYLE

The home office is now standard issue. **Techline Studio's** newly designed showroom presents a wealth of ideas. “We're moving from warm-toned hardwoods to


CARLYLE CONVERTIBLES


DOLMA

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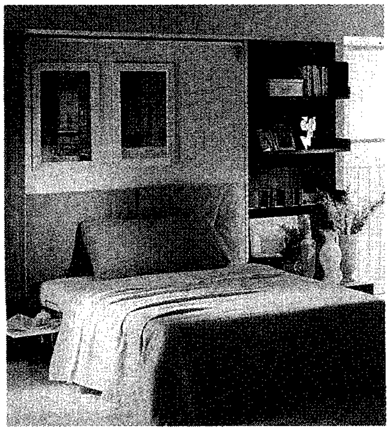
PAMELA LUDWICK

sleek, all-white finishes, frosted glass doors and shades of silver and gray," says design director Gavin Bromell. One such new look combines graphite with oyster gray, reminiscent of a pinstriped suit. Increasingly, wheels are being requested for desks, bookcases—all the elements of home work or entertainment. The range of cubbies, drawers and bins is infinite; from narrow ones expressly crafted for envelopes and CDs to tall ones for files and vases. "Space organization is very personal," says Bromell, "Some prefer an open grid, others opt for doors." Techline's experts work around the particular needs of the room—a protruding pipe for example—and existing furniture in the room be it modern or classical Louis Seize, as well as the client's specific business needs to create the perfect system.

35 East 19th St.,
212-674-1813 / 800-697-7573
www.techlinestudio.com

TECHLINE STUDIO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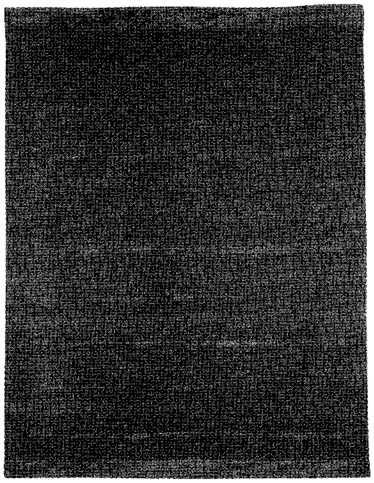
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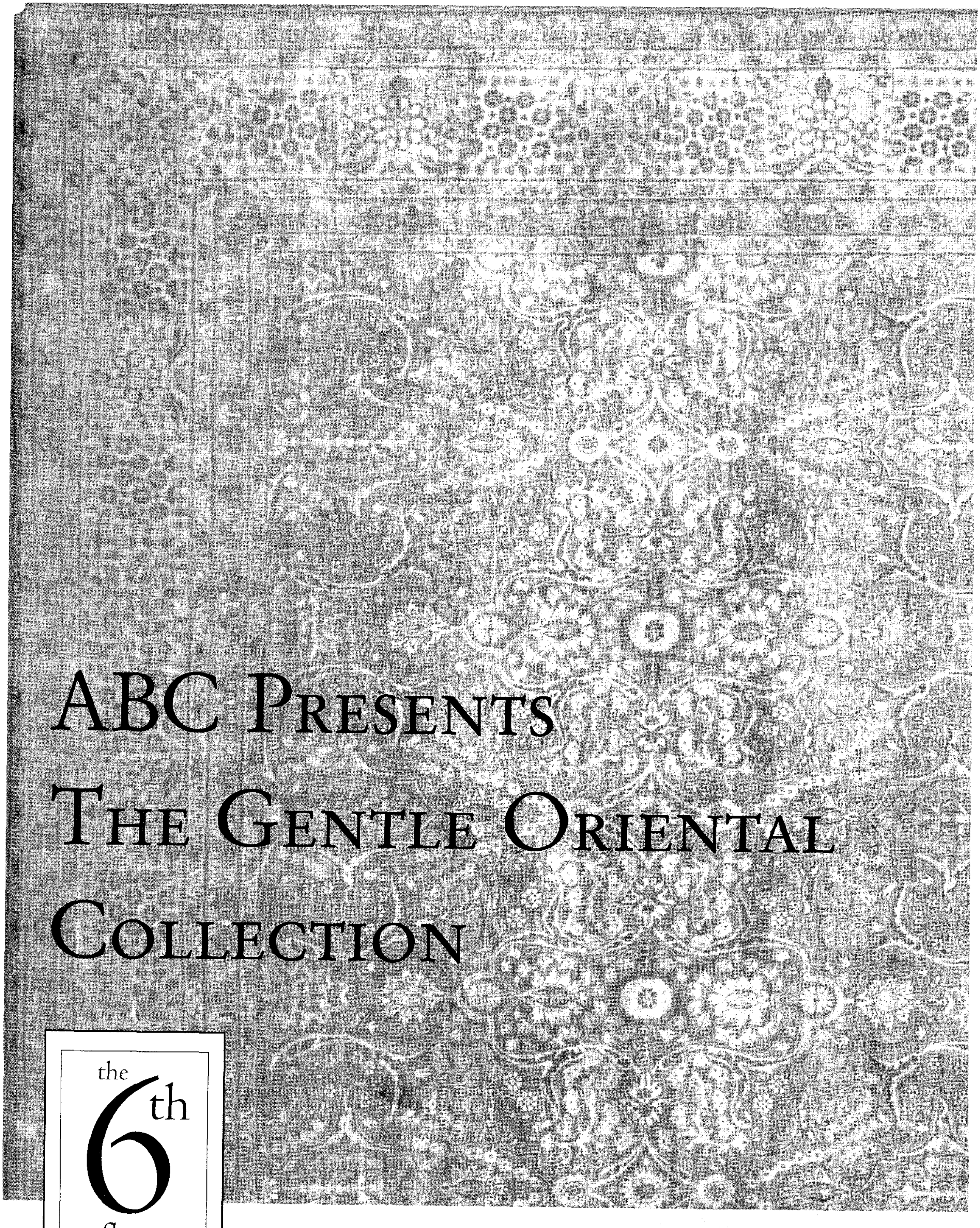ABC Presents
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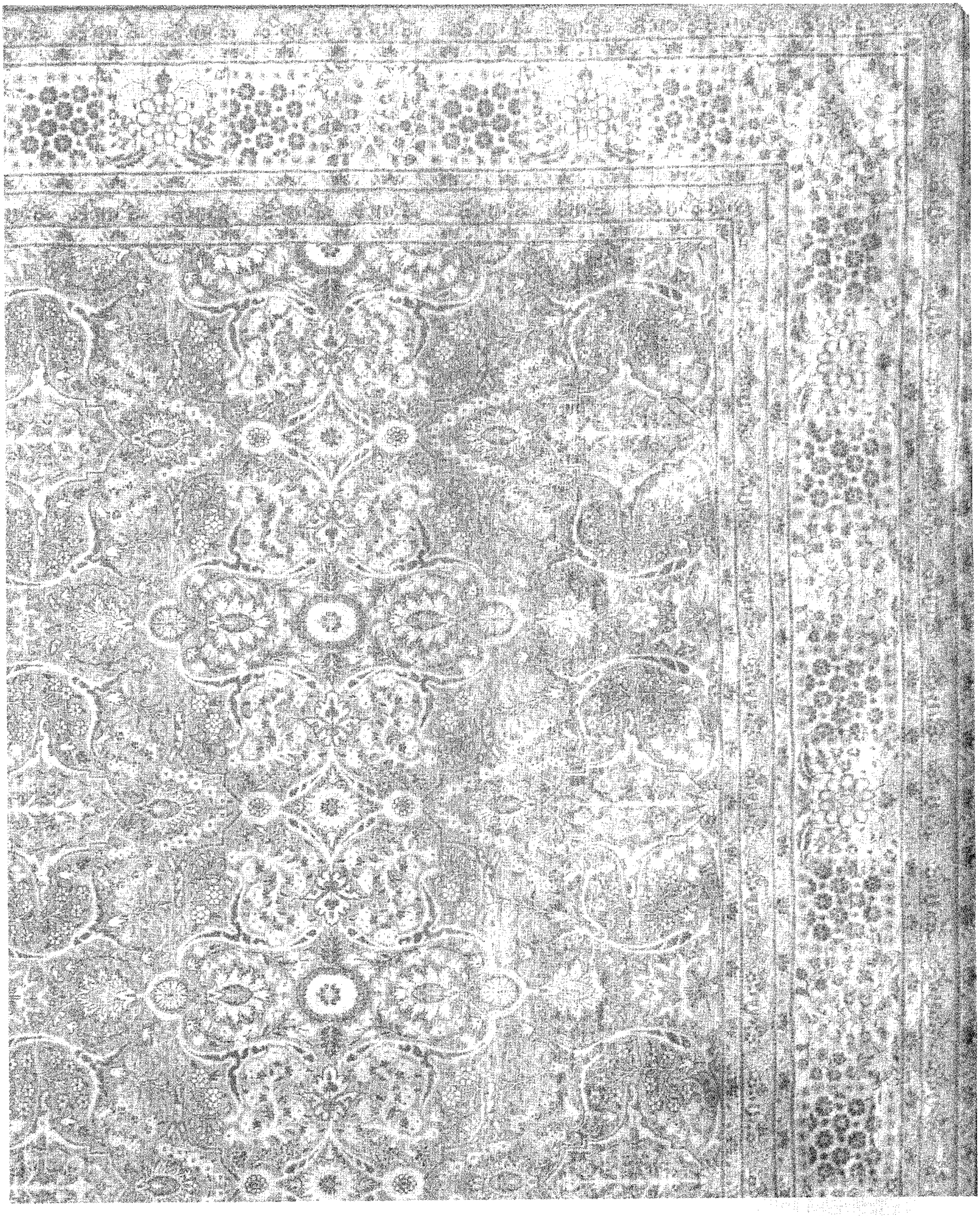

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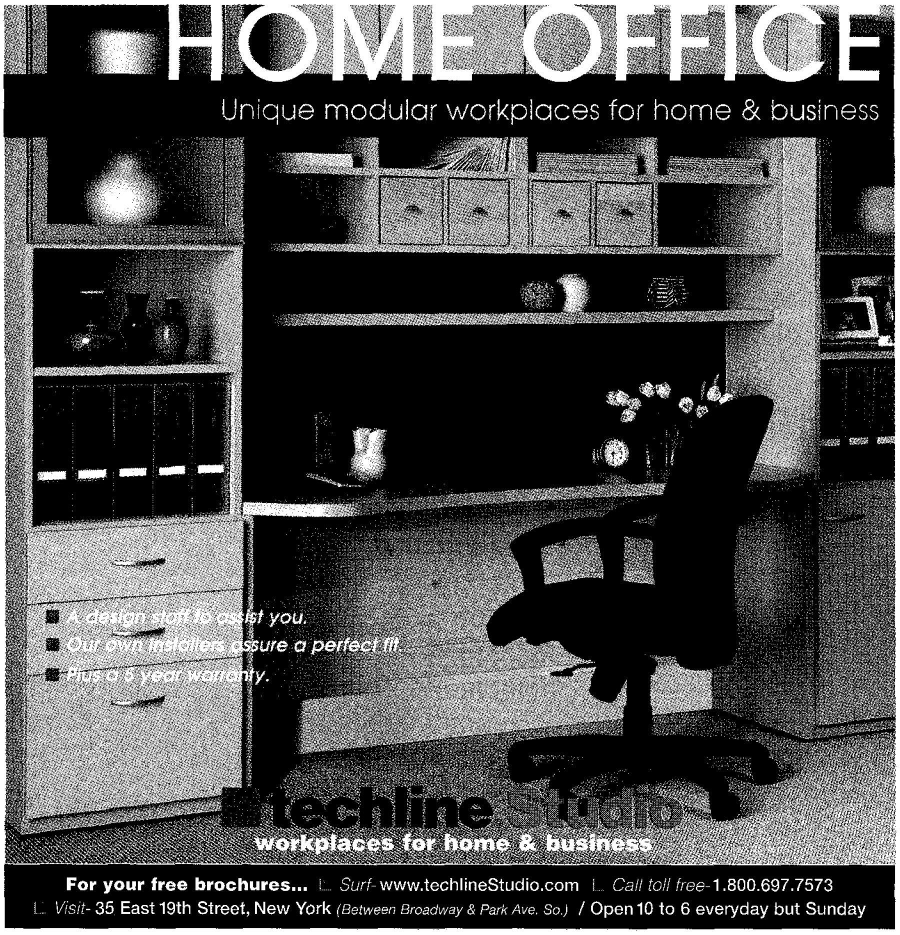
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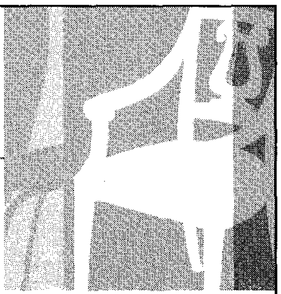
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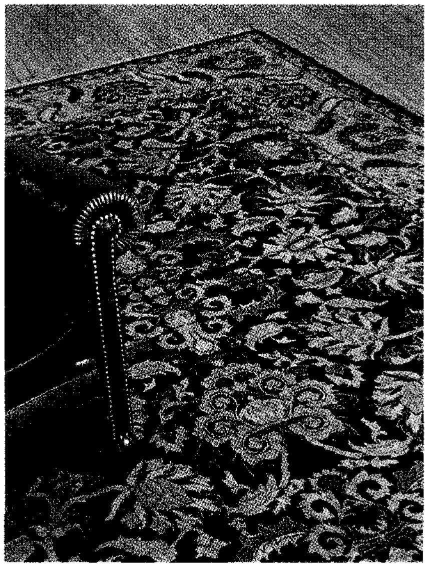
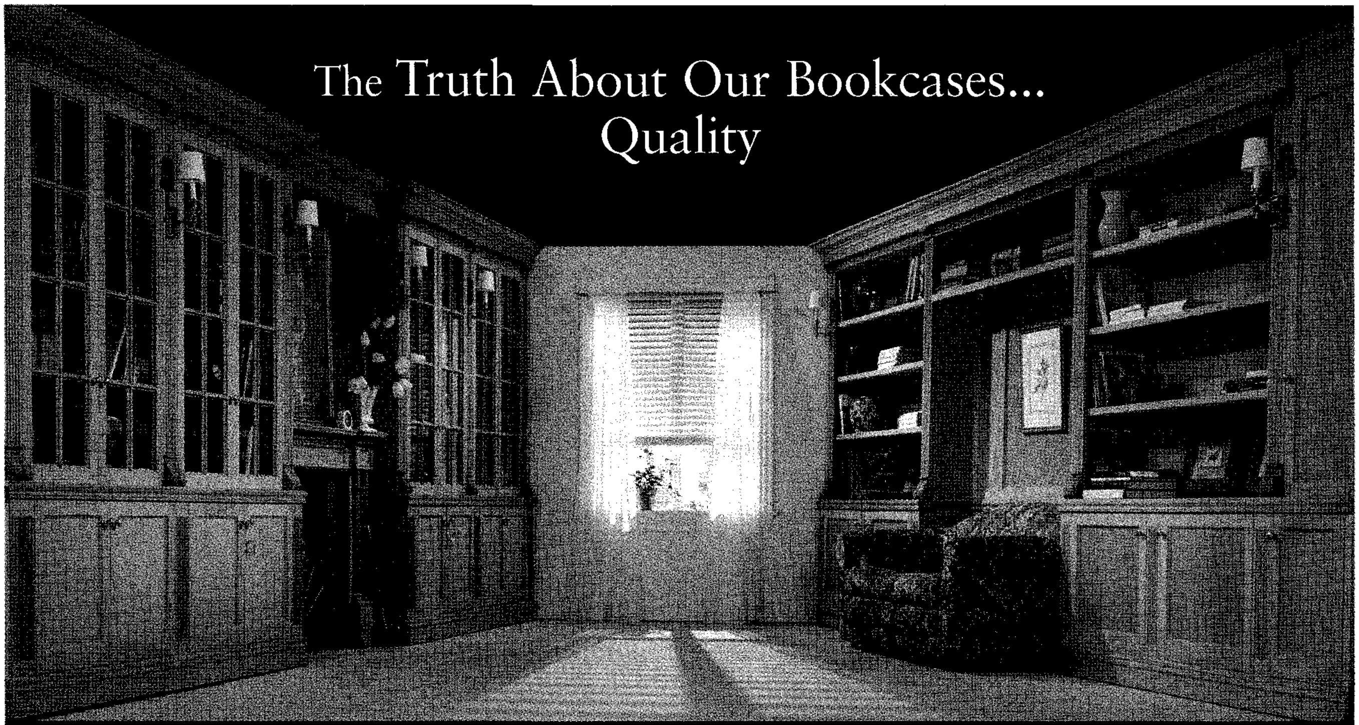
A wise and beautiful investment, **La Belle Epoque's** posters are “real collectibles,” says owner Elie Saporta. “Their value increases every day because few are left in the world.” Saporta carries posters from the 1880s to the 1960s, 4"x5" product labels to 20-foot billboards, including artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Cassandra and Mucha. A complete frame shop, La Belle Epoque uses conservation-quality framing for preserving your investment. You can see a sampler at The Fashion Institute of Technology’s “Femme Fatale” exhibit, where five of the store’s posters are on display.
280 Columbus Ave., 212-362-1770, www.la-belle-epoque.com

“COLLECT, DON’T DECORATE” is an old **ABC Carpet & Home** slogan according to president Graham Head. Easy enough to do at this store brimming with everything you ever wanted and never knew you desired. Everything from trés chér and rare crystal chandeleirs to antique desks and embellished pillows is artfully arranged in what appears to be haphazard manner, but that is actually very precisely orchestrated. It’s a panache that most of us can only hope to acquire. Ideas abound throughout the store if you keep your eyes open—from new color medleys to ways to toss a throw on a bed—as this is more an idea factory than a mere store. Storming the globe for the most wonderful items, ABC buyers are constantly bringing in new treasures. "Mid-century is blazing hot in the furniture area today," says Head. "The organic forms, funky fabrications and off-beat shades have found a new audience. Revitalized Oriental furniture is another trend—we find fabulous old pieces in Asia, Indonesia and other eastern ports of call, then finish them in a 21st century way." In shades such as sun yellow, acid green and bright orange, the furniture takes on an exciting new feel. Just one or two pieces in a room is enough to add your personal touch, which is what decorating is all about. Also new is the "Gentle Oriental" carpet collection. European in feeling and reminiscent of antique rugs, they display the arabesques, curlicues and medallions of old, and are made in the same manner and high-grade wool as ancient Persians. In these, the color palette has been softened, leaning toward beiges and golds instead of bright reds and blues. Understated and subtle, they're the perfect background for almost any décor, any room in the house—like the ubiquitous sisal, but warmer and more sophisticated. Addressing the current crop of young parents with crawling tots at home, a big new carpet category is wall-to-wall made of natural fibers such as abaca (from the banana plant). Neutral in tone, but with marvelous textures and designs created in the weaving, they're informal in feel, which also makes them great for homes in the country or at the shore. **888 Broadway, 212-473-3000; In DUMBO: 20 Jay Street, Bklyn., 718-643-7400. In the Bronx: 1055 Bronx River Ave., 718-842-8770.**



ABC CARPET & HOME

"PEOPLE ARE STAYING HOME MORE, and desire a homier, less traditionally formal look with an even greater emphasis on quality," says John Wolf. He and his father, Johann, co-owners of **Little Wolf Cabinet Shop,** have been building custom kitchens, libraries, mantels, bookcases and entertainment centers for nearly 50 years. With myriad samples from which to choose—woods of every description, moldings from straight-edged modern to curvy classics, door styles that are pieces of art themselves and decorative touches like latticework, columns and arches—you can differentiate your home. The Wolfs have 30 jobs in the works at any time



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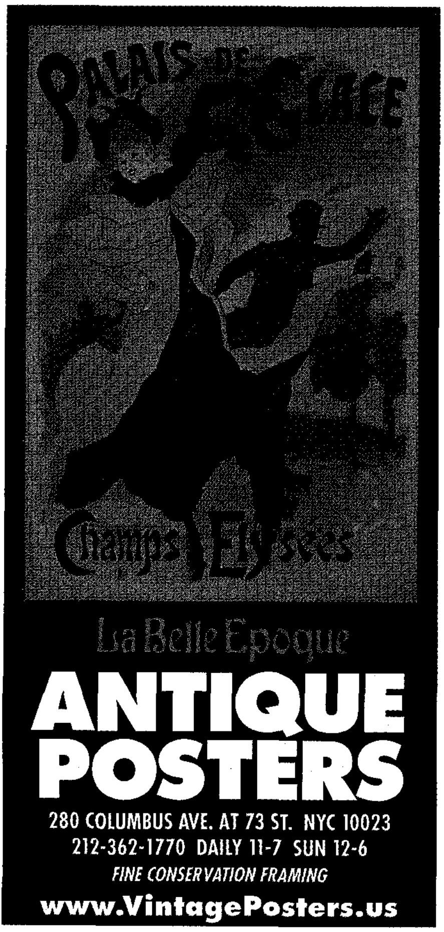

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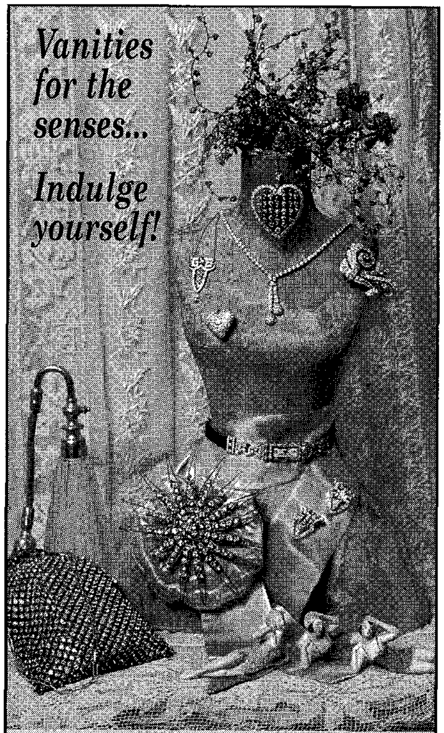

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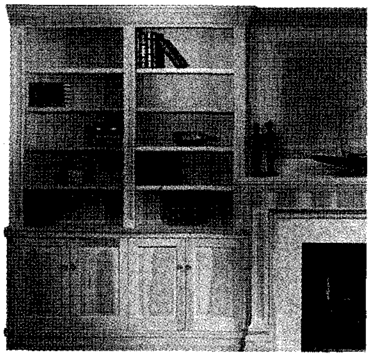

LITTLE WOLF CABINET

PERFECTLY SIZED FOR a modern apartment, the antique wardrobes and commodes at **Lorraine Wohl Collection** are a beautiful way to store T's and sweaters. Wohl regularly brings back treasures from her European travels, including mirrored French vanities and furniture from the 1900s through the 1940s. Some of her lamps, etched as well as mirrored, are by Jensen. Jewelry dating to the Edwardian and Georgian eras, and stunning gowns, complete her eclectic and elegant collection.
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A WEEKLY GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS • Edited by Christopher Bonanos

SONGBIRD WITH FEATHERS: Amy Burton, as the chanteuse Yvonne Printemps.

OPERA

Yvonne Printemps—A French Diva Unveiled

The light-opera star Yvonne Printemps was a fabulous, scandalous star in prewar Paris. Amy Burton, star of City Opera's *Marriage of Figaro*, stars in this biographical work, which includes a number of songs expressly written for Printemps. **(November 20, 22, and 23; see listing, page 167.)**

RESTAURANTS

Wild-Game Festival at Brasserie Les Halles Downtown

The restaurant made famous by that culinary wild man Anthony Bourdain goes for the forests this week, presenting a menu of boar sausage, pheasant, partridge, and many more dishes evoking the French woods. **(November 18 through 24; to reserve, call 212-285-8585.)**

THEATER

Man of La Mancha

Brian Stokes Mitchell stars in the musical that gave the world "Dulcinea" and "The Impossible Dream." **(Starts previews November 23 for a December 5 opening; see highlight, page 154.)**

NIGHTLIFE

Laurie Anderson

A set of shows at St. Ann's Warehouse, mixing Anderson's adventurous early work with material from her most recent—and still remarkably inventive—album, *Life on a String*. **(November 20–24; see listing, page 168.)**

Best of the Week

ART

The Quilts of Gee's Bend

The Whitney shows off the beautiful—and improbably sophisticated—craftsmanship of the quilting ladies from a tiny Alabama town. **(Opens November 21; see highlight, page 155.)**

BOOKS

I Want That!

Thomas Hine—author of *Populuxe*, a gleeful, smart study of fifties design and architecture—now turns his stylish analysis to our obsession with shopping, from Persian bazaars to Amazon.com. Delightful social observation, and affectionate rather than strident. **(HarperCollins; $24.95; in bookstores now.)**

MOVIES

Talk to Her

Skip the new Bond in favor of a director who's usually a bit kinder to women: Pedro Almodóvar, releasing his first film since the Oscar-winning *All About My Mother*. (And stop by the Landmark Sunshine this weekend for a midnight screening of Almodóvar's *Live Flesh*.) **(Opens November 22; see Peter Rainer's review, page 134, and listings, page 145.)**

MOMENT IN THE SUN: Rosario Flores, with director Almodóvar, on the set of *Talk to Her*.

TOP five

Holiday Volunteer Organizations

Turkey tastes better when you're helping someone less fortunate. So tie on an apron, break out the baster, and hit the streets.

1. God's Love We Deliver

Attention, car owners: Drivers are needed to deliver meals in Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan to people with AIDS and other serious illnesses. You'll be equipped with food, addresses, and maps. Bring a friend so you can double-park. **(212-294-8169.)**

2. The Children's Aid Society

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LAUREN DECARLO

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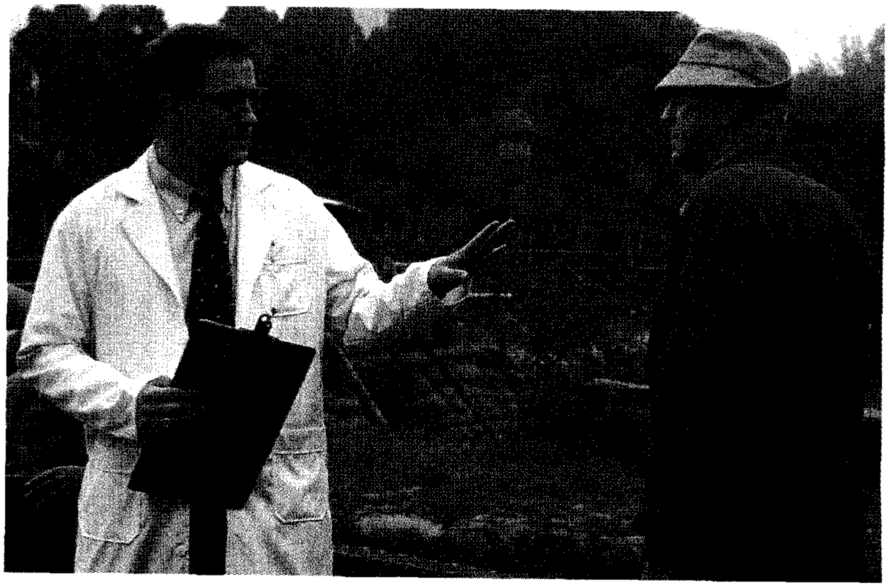
PHOTOGRAPHS: FROM TOP, CHRISTIAN STEINER; MIGUEL BRACHO.

MOVIES **PETER RAINER**

Foreign Affairs

The Quiet American is equal parts romantic thriller and moving meditation on the human toll of geopolitical idealism; in Almodóvar's latest, it's the men who fall for the strong, silent types.

THE OPENING SHOTS OF **The Quiet American**, based on the Graham Greene novel and set in Saigon in 1952, establish the mood that will carry throughout the movie. Delicate boats at night appear as though glimpsed through a moist scrim of memory; but in these same waters a body will soon wash up. The body belongs to Alden Pyle (Brendan Fraser), an American who had been stationed in Vietnam ostensibly to provide medical aid but who, in fact, was a covert CIA operative. Over these dark images, we hear the ruminative voice of Thomas Fowler (Michael Caine), a *Times* of London reporter who tells us that after a season in Vietnam, "you can hardly remember your name or what you're escaping from." Fowler has the plangent look of someone who is fully inured to loss; the heat and the torpor have brought out a fatalism in him. The only thing that sparks his rheumy eyes is his young mistress Phuong (Do Thi Hai Yen), a graceful beauty who seems unperturbed by their vast difference in age. Fowler is supremely detached, except for his love for Phuong. Beautifully directed by Phillip Noyce, the film, which flashes back from those opening sequences, is a full experience, a love story and a murder mystery that expands into a meditation on the deep deceptions of innocence.



GREENE ACRES: Brendan Fraser and Michael Caine are both friends and rivals in fifties Vietnam in *The Quiet American.*

The Quiet American
Directed by Phillip Noyce;
Starring Michael Caine
and Brendan Fraser.

Talk to Her
Directed by Pedro
Almodóvar; starring Javier
Cámara and Dario
Grandinetti.
See Movies listings
for details.

At first, the world-weary journalist and the newly arrived, gung-ho American are fast friends. When Pyle declares his love for Phuong—and even later on, when Pyle's real mission in Vietnam is revealed—an abiding affection still persists between the two men. Fowler is impressed, even a bit tickled, by Pyle's outright wooing of his mistress; and yet when he says that losing her "will be the beginning of death," you believe him. Caine, in one of his finest performances, shows us the desperation beneath Fowler's practiced politeness and cynicism. In the end, following a CIA-engineered explosion in Saigon Square that is blamed on the Communists and that kills more than 30 civilians, he goes against Pyle. He does so because, finally, this unbrave, noncommittal man must take a stand or he will come apart. But we are made to wonder, as does Fowler, how much his righteousness has to do with eliminating a rival.

The Quiet American has a script by Christopher Hampton and Robert Schenkkan that is much more faithful to Greene's 1955 novel than the 1958 Hollywood version starring Michael Redgrave and Audie Murphy—a film Greene hated because, among other things, it made Pyle into an independent operative and thus toned down the book's anti-Americanism. Noyce's film was reportedly withheld from distribution by Miramax for over a year because, after 9/11, its ideological edge was deemed too controversial. It's true that the movie is politically unsettling. But I wonder if the anti-American angle, which Noyce reinforces at the end with a montage of newspaper headlines blaring the U.S. escalation of the war, isn't a bit of a red herring. What keeps the film from falling into agitprop is precisely its fairness toward characters who, in heavier hands, might have remained stock villains (or heroes). Even more so than the novel, the film is about the dangerousness of someone who, like Pyle, is essentially an idealist. He symbolizes the American who truly believes his adventurism is for the greater good.

Brendan Fraser is a touch too callow in the role, but his bounding, goodhearted openness has its complexities: It gives the miseries Pyle sets in motion a truly troubling resonance. The film suggests that both Pyle *and* Fowler are idealists; that each needs something in the other man in order to feel fully alive. For Pyle, it's his friend's mistress—Phuong is a glimmering embodiment of the Vietnamese people he believes he is trying to save. For Fowler, Pyle is a guileless beguiler, and however much he despises Pyle's interventions, he stands

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PHIL BRAY.

abashed before the young man's ardor. Pyle saves Fowler's life at one point, during an attack on a watchtower, and yet Fowler can't return the favor. In the end, for him, murder is murder—the explosion in Saigon Square has taught him that—and the only way to remain human is to take sides.

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR'S **Talk to Her** AFFECTS some people very deeply, while others, like me, find it high-grade kitsch. The film features male actors far more than females—something of a novelty for Almodóvar—and yet ultimately it is about that old mainstay: the ineffable mysteriousness of women. Benigno (wonderfully played by Javier Cámara) is a gentle male nurse who is devoted to his patient, Alicia (Leonor Watling), a ballet student he used to spy on before an auto accident left her in an irreversible coma. In the same hospital is Lydia (Rosario Flores), a bullfighter, also comatose. She is regularly visited by Marco (Dario Grandinetti), a husky travel-guide author who was involved with her before her accident in the bull ring. The two men, so dissimilar on the surface, are linked by their vigilance. The most evocative (and funny) idea in the movie is that they get along better with their women than most wide-awake couples get along with each other. They talk to the ladies as if they could still hear and understand, and Benigno, for one, believes in miracles.

Almodóvar is more playful when he's making movies about women (or transvestites or transsexuals). The men here tend to bring out in him a dull gravitas. The essence of the film's story line is a lot creepier than Almodóvar allows for; there's something almost fetishistic about the way he savors the immutability of the women. It's as if they had become comatose so that the two men could be soul mates. I'll say this much: It's certainly a novel approach to male bonding.

JAMES BOND IS TORTURED BY THE NORTH KOreans and abandoned by his own people in **Die Another Day**, but in every other respect, right down to the Aston Martins and Halle Berry's bikini (think Ursula Andress), it's the same old Bond. The chief bad guy is the usual crazy billionaire, who in this instance has developed some kind of space-borne solar reflector. (Think SMERSH meets Greenpeace.) This series is in its fortieth year; it might be nice to see Bond battle a readily identifiable, real-world villain for a change. There's certainly no shortage. ■

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BOOKS JOHN HOMANS

Hero, Heroine, Heroin

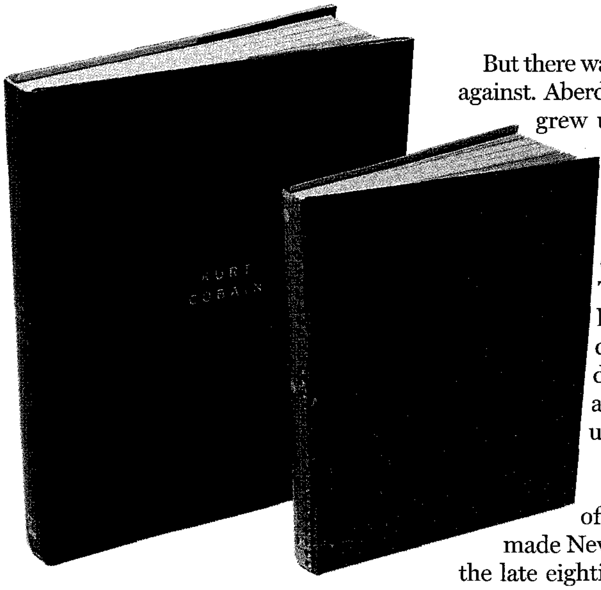
Kurt Cobain was a man addicted to contradiction—among other things. And his journals are the daily diary of an American dream—and nightmare.

WHATEVER SECOND thoughts he might currently be entertaining about his suicide in 1994 at age 27, Kurt Cobain would no doubt be pleased to have at least spared himself the rest of the waltz with the proverbial bitch goddess Fame, the spectacle of fall and redemption that's become the obligatory anticlimax—don't call it a second act—of American life. Try to imagine Kurt Cobain undergoing the ritual self-abasement of *Behind the Music,* then drifting off into the purgatory of the formerly famous. First, Kurt and Courtney as the Osbournes—think of the F-words. And then, if there were still bills to pay . . . *Celebrity Boxing*! Courtney would be a lock.

Possibly, along with freedom from his stomach pain, this is what he wanted to escape. Suicide may be deeply stupid, cowardly, misguided, all those things—a note to the children: Just say no to suicide—but it is hard to argue that it is not sincere. Beneath all the layers of irony and sarcasm and humor and stoner surrealism, Cobain had a gift for sincerity, which is everywhere evident in his journals. He wanted to make himself understood. (Courtney—bad, bad Courtney—gave permission for the journals to be published and participated in the editing.)

The **Journals** arrive in glitzy, glossy, funereal black. The tome is a tomb, a sepulcher for a holy relic. The Chip Kidd design is typically witty, but in a slightly effete, New York–ified way; its ostentatious minimalism might have made Cobain, who was pretty constantly swallowing bile anyway, want to puke. Black was definitely not his color, even in death.

But what's under the sleeve is far from a reliquary. The book is swarming with life, and it's irresistible to anyone who cares about the music. In photographed pages from standard-issue supermarket notebooks are diary entries, lyrics, cartoons (Kurt was a gifted cartoonist), video treatments, lists of favorite bands, and even what scholars may one day discover to be a recipe ("sprinkle garlic salt; rub flour on 'em; brown 'em") for fried chicken. (Late in the book, in a cry for help, is an 800 number for NordicTrack.)



PAINT IT BLACK: Cobain's book has a funeral shroud.

A crucial theme here is getting his shit together. One of the lessons of this book is that to start a band is to be an entrepreneur, and in order to do so, you have to establish a hardy little colony of virtue in the midst of the teenage wasteland. Kurt learns to be a hard-ass, albeit always an amusing one. "We feel really shitty that we don't have the guts to tell you in person," he writes in a letter to one of the band's early drummers, "but we don't know how mad you would get."

There's also the crucial matter of establishing coolness. To this end, he explicates the style violations of seventies rock stars. And one night, he roots through bass player Chris Novoselic's record collection and finds "Eagles, Carpenters, yes, Joni Mitchell, and said with frustration, 'what in the fuck do you own these for?' " They broke 250 records. Kurt reports that Chris felt "cleansed."

Journals
By Kurt Cobain.
Riverhead; 280 pages;
$29.95.

But there was much, much more to rebel against. Aberdeen, Washington, where he grew up, is almost an American Afghanistan, "a town of loggers and their subservient wives." "I'm not gay," he liked to say, "but I wish I were, if only to piss off the rednecks." Then he imagines a fitting solution: "The hairy, sweaty, macho, sexist dickheads will soon drown in a pool of razorblades and semen stemmed from the uprising of their children."

Ouch. He meant it to hurt. Cobain can sound like one of those political artists who made New York's culture so dreary in the late eighties. But luckily, his sense of victimization and its accompanying preachiness and whininess don't overwhelm his art. "I like to have strong opinions," he writes, "with nothing to back them up but my primal sincerity." And later: "I like to complain and do nothing to make things better." These are thoughts that undercut his moral self-importance and allowed him to be an artist. He's passionately ambivalent.

One giant hole in this book, inevitably, is the music itself—the passion of playing rock and roll in front of people. Another hole, of course, is Courtney (*What did you say the name of that bitch goddess was?*). Was she Nurse Ratched to his Billy Bibbit? His drug buddy and muse? Probably all of those things, but in a somewhat predictable scandal (I mean, what did anyone *think* Courtney would do?), we get none of that here.

Actually, though, it may be feminist progress that Courtney has become the Ted Hughes of this generation, accused of having driven a sensitive poet to an early death with overbearing coarseness, then peddling bowdlerized journals. The truth is that both Kurt and Courtney were compulsive, virtuosic reinventors of sex roles—this was something they shared. Kurt, in this book, is not criticized or taken advantage of—rather, he's "raped." He describes his stomach con-

PHOTOGRAPHED BY CARINA SALVI.

dition at one point, "as if God had fucked me and planted these precious little eggs."

In Courtney's case, the plasticity of gender has reached the level of actual plastic surgery. Cobain's estate received some $4 million from Riverhead Books for the journals, and it's kind of a horror to think that the proceeds may help defray the costs of Courtney's bionic-woman explorations—though maybe Kurt would have supported them.

In the final years, there's the sense that Cobain had conquered a kingdom he didn't want and couldn't rule. In that sense, he's an American Hamlet—sweet prince on dope. He couldn't escape the questions that tormented him. "Anyone given the surprise of becoming instant rock stars against their will," he wrote, "have the same thoughts." To free himself, he turned to heroin, which Kurt liked to spell "heroine"—bitch goddess No. 3. Prozac might have helped that bash.

Somehow, Cobain forgot that he had power—to think his own thoughts, to retreat. There's a misplaced sense of responsibility here. He could have stopped the whole thing, moved to the South Seas like an emaciated Marlon Brando, puttering around his compound in a housedress. Instead, he felt the need to stay and explain himself. He wanted to do the right thing, and it pushed him—this is what he says he felt—into doing (at least as regards his daughter, Frances Bean) absolutely the wrong thing.

Adulthood was a rather late addition to the Cobain repertoire. He was trying it on, but he never really got it to fit. And he talked about suicide his whole life—he never really planned on being an adult. Rock—punk, especially—is often about the boredom of being an adult, and the terror of that boredom, and the search for transcendence, and, of course, the failure to locate it. This is a problem that many young people have—grow up and be *that?* Kurt didn't grow up.

Is a rock musician's life part of the performance? Cobain apparently believed something like this, and we—we journalists, we avid consumers of *Us Weekly*—have certainly helped make it so. We wallow in the spectacle, even as some profess to revile it. What music fan isn't a little thrilled every time he or she walks by the Chelsea Hotel?

It's easy to imagine Kurt playing back all the moralizing about his suicide in his playful, sarcastic voice. He loved a morbid joke, to laugh at his own freakishness and misfortune. In death, he's part misguided, pathetically drug-addicted, callow youth, part rock deity. This fact may have amused him—if that counts for anything. ■

More book reviews can be read at
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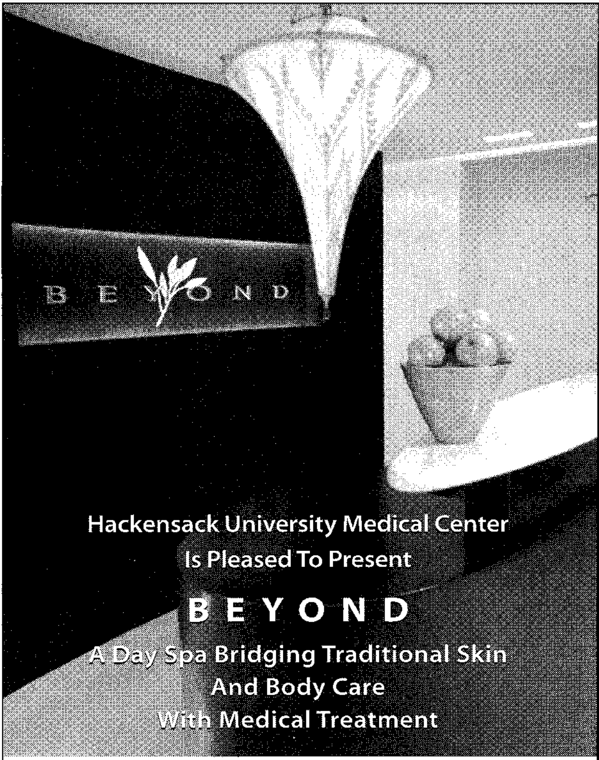
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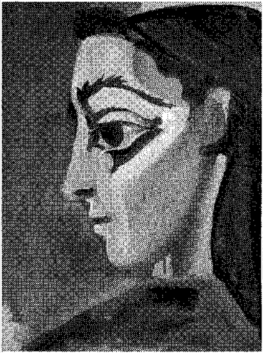
Picasso, Courtesy Landau Fine Art

THEATER **JOHN SIMON**

Haunted Houses

A revival of *Ghosts* lacks the power to suggest how controversial the play once was; *Far Away* is a nightmare.

IBSEN'S 1881 **Ghosts** MAY SEEM A bit musty today; it helps to recall the times when Mr. Pecksniff and Mrs. Grundy led the forces of righteous indignation against it all over Europe. In 1895, a scant four years after its British premiere, Shaw wrote nostalgically about the ruckus it had provoked, "one crowded moment when . . . the atmosphere of London was black with vituperation, with threats, with clamor for suppression and extinction, with everything that makes life worth living." Such life-enhancing furors, stirred up by Ibsen or anyone else, are regrettably rare in our theater. But we can at least derive from this ancient battleground the same sort of thrill as from a visit to Gettysburg.

How discreetly understated it all is! Today's inattentive spectator might not even recognize the use of syphilis as a spearhead for attacking the bourgeois proprieties and largely hypocritical religious straitjacketing as poisoners of life. Yet what a powerful work inspired by the spirochete, without its ever being named in the play. Even so, *Ghosts* had to endure long interdicts in the countries in which it was eventually to prevail.

Ghosts
Revival of the Ibsen play; staged by Daniel Fish; starring Amy Irving and Daniel Gerroll.

Far Away
By Caryl Churchill; directed by Stephen Daldry; starring Frances McDormand.

The Fourth Wall
By A. R. Gurney; starring Sandy Duncan.
See Theater listings for details.

The Classic Stage Company's mounting uses Lanford Wilson's idiomatic and pungent translation but otherwise has little merit. We miss the oppressively ponderous furniture to convey the stiflingly bourgeois atmosphere. Christine Jones's set consists of a green wall and floor with a few sticks of spindly furnishings and one square window that sometimes gives on rain, sometimes on the dining room. Neither the mountain peaks, nor the orphanage fire, nor yet the final mocking sunshine, is properly conveyed, and when Scott Zielinski's lighting goes for huge, ominous shadows, the effect is bathetic.

GETTING IT (NEARLY) RIGHT: Amy Irving and Daniel Gerroll in a new translation of Henrik Ibsen's *Ghosts*.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DIXIE SHERIDAN.

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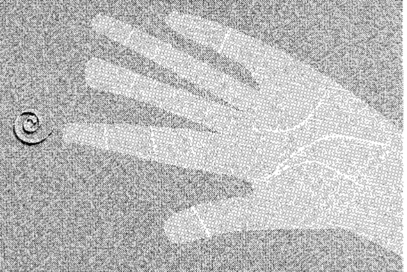

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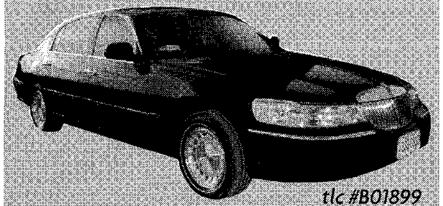

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Daniel Fish, the director, must have demanded "modern" acting: Much dialogue is delivered casually or sotto voce, if not, as in the case of Ted Schneider's Oswald, in a breakneck sprint. Stage movement is often constrained or contrived, and the acting, striving to be contemporary, lacks the period style for which American actors are, in any case, untrained.

Daniel Gerroll's Pastor Manders comes closest to getting it right; the usually delightful Amy Irving is an awkward Mrs. Alving, even what seems to be an unruly blonde wig sabotaging her natural loveliness. David Patrick Kelly is an obviously slimy Engstrand; as Regina, Lisa DeMont curtsies well but rather too often.

EVER SINCE THE FINE *MAD FOREST*, CARYL Churchill's plays have become madder and madder. Her current **Far Away** carries the non sequitur to new heights. This 60-minute farrago, which may induce you to watch your watch more than the stage, consists of three scenes that call themselves acts, between which, it seems, years elapse. In the first, a little girl, Joan, sleepless in the wee hours, tells her likewise waking Aunt Harper, with whom she is staying, about unmentionable acts performed by her uncle. He is just outside, beating a newly arrived truckload of adults and children bloody, then herding them into the shed for further bloodshed. This still preserves a semblance of reality as, say, Harold Pinter might conceive it. In Act Two, a grown-up Joan and Todd, a young man, toil in a hat factory, outstripping each other in outlandishly towering creations that would make Isaac Mizrahi blush. These hats, we soon see, are to humiliate a parade of chained prisoners wearing them to execution.

In the all-stops-out third act, the aunt and the male modiste discourse about a world in which nations, animals, plants, and objects wage fathomless war in absurd alliances and incomprehensible enmity. Joan, now Todd's wife, has escaped (from whom?) for a day, and reports that "rats are bleeding out of their mouths and ears, which is good, and so were the girls by the side of the road . . . there were piles of bodies . . . one killed by coffee or one killed by pins, they were killed by heroin, petrol, chain saws, hairspray, foxgloves," not forgetting "thousands dead of light in Madagascar." Joan was afraid to cross a river, not so much because of "a camp of Chilean soldiers upstream" and "fourteen black-and-white cows downstream" as because of doubts about "whose side the river was on."

The play is against brutality, totalitarianism, and war, good fights except when, as here, directed as much at the audience. Some people may be lured to *Far Away* by Frances McDormand as Aunt Harper. She has, however, like the others, little to do, save for some even more cockamamie business devised by Stephen Daldry, the dependably offensive director.

A. R. GURNEY'S **The Fourth Wall**, WHICH HAS been kicking around for a decade, arrives, slightly refurbished, at New York's Primary Stages, still unready for prime time. Fatuous and smug, it would not do credit to a futilely stagestruck college sophomore.

Peggy, a middle-aged housewife, has arranged the overstuffed living-room furniture to face an utterly blank fourth wall—i.e., the audience. She believes that beyond it are vital people to be broken through to. She also believes that someone is threatening her life, and that she must go to Washington to straighten out George W. Her indulgent husband, Roger, though a businessman, knows all about theater, as does Peggy's visiting New York friend, the supersophisticated Julia, who decides that the room is really a stage set, whereupon all—later including Floyd, a gay drama teacher at the local college—lapse into endless repetitions of stage lingo and behavior. Fantasy is fine, but not when hopelessly labored, hand-me-down, and, except to pushovers, unfunny.

Gurney's last-ditch invention falls back on a player piano that unsolicitedly bursts into Cole Porter numbers, which anywhere from one to all four cast members proceed lustily to perform. Another desperation tactic of this monstrously attenuated skit is the facile and gratuitous anti-Bush gibes, which get from a quasi-Pavlovianly programmed audience an orgasmic response.

As Julia, Susan Sullivan gives at least a performance (an amusing Lauren Bacall takeoff); Charles Kimbrough (Roger) resorts to shtick, and David Pittu (Floyd) to camp, no doubt encouraged by David Saint's complacent direction. Sandy Duncan (Peggy) is at sea in an essentially nonmusical role.

It may be of piquant interest that *The Fourth Wall* uses the conceit of a parallel between the heroine and Shaw's Saint Joan, a device currently put to infinitely better use in Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days*. As for the nauseatingly overworked metaphor of theater for life and vice versa, this was long ago exploited, much more subtly and tellingly, in Molnár's *The Play's the Thing*, in which Gurney's nose could perhaps profitably be rubbed. ■

John Simon's reviews can be read at nymetro.com/archive/simon.

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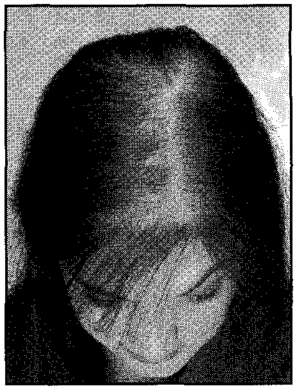

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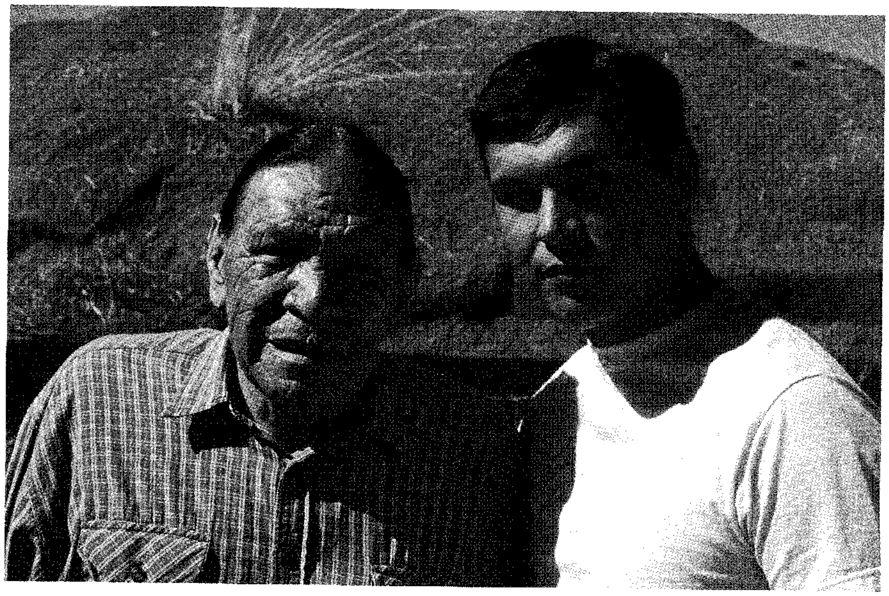
TELEVISION JOHN LEONARD

Bewitched

With its murdered medicine men and stealthy shamans, *Skinwalkers* finally brings public TV's *Mystery!* to America.



NATIVE INTELLIGENCE: Saginaw Grant and Adam Beach star in *Skinwalkers*, a Navajo murder mystery set in the Southwest.

AT MORE THAN ONE FOLK-music festival, Floyd Red Crow Westerman has observed that no gathering of Native Americans is ever safe from at least one missionary, one anthropologist, and one FBI agent. Which perhaps explains why every Tony Hillerman novel is an exercise as much in cultural anthropology and comparative religion as in criminal detection. Moreover, we deceive ourselves if we think this anthropologizing is all one way—blue eyes on red behavior. Among my favorite Hillermans is *Talking God* (1989), in which, to protest a Smithsonian Museum exhibition of Amerindian remains, a part-Navajo conservator digs up the bones of his Wasp colleague's New England ancestors and has them delivered to her from the graveyard in a sack of dirt.

Skinwalkers isn't quite so subversive. But it's about time that the public-television *Mystery!* series crossed over to this side of the Atlantic, where a whole outlaw literature was just waiting to be screenplayed, as well as a tradition of kinky mayhem as robust as any other in the fraught world. And if *Skinwalkers* attracts the big audience it deserves, there are a dozen more Hillerman novels where this one came from, in the deserts and mountains of Arizona and New Mexico and Utah, full of sand paintings, ghostways, and shamanism, populated by changing women, salt people, mud clans, and sacred clowns, not to mention the usual complement of condescending academics, greed-crazed relic hunters, dude plutocrats, and undercover Feds.

Tony Hillerman's Skinwalkers
Sunday, November 24;
9 to 11 P.M.; Channel 13.

Martin and Lewis
Sunday, November 24;
9 to 11 P.M.; CBS.

Someone in the spectacularly beautiful American Southwest is killing off Navajo medicine men, even as Officer Jim Chee of the Tribal Police is training to become one, and even as Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is discovering that white medicine can't cure his wife of cancer. (*Skinwalkers* is the first Tony Hillerman novel

PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY GUS/WGBH.

in which the metaphysician Chee and the Enlightenment rationalist Leaphorn team up to work on the same case and each other's nerves.) That the murderer is reported to appear to his victims in animal form, wearing a dog's skull as a cap and moving at lightning speed, suggests that he may be a "skinwalker," a Navajo witch with a dark wind blowing through him. But what's his beef with these healers, most of them so old that they'll snuffle off soon enough anyway?

It's a satisfying mystery, but an even more satisfying production, directed by Chris Eyre with the same pause-and-poke, jive-and-joke bodhisattva style he brought to *Smoke Signals. Smoke Signals,* in fact, is where we first met Adam Beach, who plays Jim Chee here with just the right slow-beat taking of his own temperature and consulting of his inner mystical compass. (I like him so much I want to forewarn him against his lawyer love, Janet Pete, to shout out that she will break his heart!) As if he had been broken and mended so often that he consists entirely of his seams, Wes Studi brings the same wounded dignity to the role of Joe Leaphorn that he brought to his roles in *The Last of the Mohicans* and *Dances With Wolves.* Robert Redford is executive producer, and James Redford adapted the novel into a teleplay.

If Beach and Studi aren't available for sequels, *Mystery!* could do a lot worse than familiarize itself with Hillerman's latest character, Bernadette Manuelito, who has just decided in *The Wailing Wind* to leave the Navajo Tribal Police for the Border Patrol.

EVERYBODY JOHN GRAY CONSULTED ABOUT his screenplay for **Martin and Lewis,** most emphatically including Dean Martin's widow and Jerry Lewis in loquacious person, seems to have approved of his conception of their relationship—a Jerry who required of the world in general and his partner in particular more love than there is in this universe, and a Dean who, in spite of his way-cool image, was so tightly wrapped and deep-down numb he wouldn't give you body heat or the time of day. No wonder that after ten years of frightening popularity, they ran away from each other. As Dean, Jeremy Northam is an odd and interesting choice, equally at home as a sedated crooner in a forties nightclub as he was as a lovesick poet in nineteenth-century *Possession.* As Jerry, Sean Hayes from *Will & Grace* seems in retrospect an obvious choice. Still, he is frantically perfect, embodying all that's scariest about clowns: grand opera and soda-cracker crumbs.

- **Sinking City of Venice** (NOVEMBER 19; 8 to 9 P.M.; Channel 13) is *Nova*'s report on the rising Adriatic and the subsiding metropolis, around which like a bathtub ring there is now a dirty-green high-water mark of algae and a seeping of salt into the foundation stones. Will the big gate they're hoping to build seal off the sea when they need to, and/or turn the lagoon into a cesspool?

- **Benjamin Franklin** (NOVEMBER 19, 9 TO 11 P.M.; November 20, 9 to 10:30 P.M.; Channel 13) is everything you already know about Poor Richard before and after he wrote his *Almanack*—from the genius inventor to the revolutionary who sounded like your uncle Chuckles to the womanizer who looked like a potato in the fried French court. Richard Easton is the voice of Ben. We also hear from Dylan Baker, Kathleen Chalfant, Peter Gerety, Roberta Maxwell, and Josef Sommer. Besides the usual Franklin biographers, we hear from a Ben buff, CNN chairman Walter Isaacson.

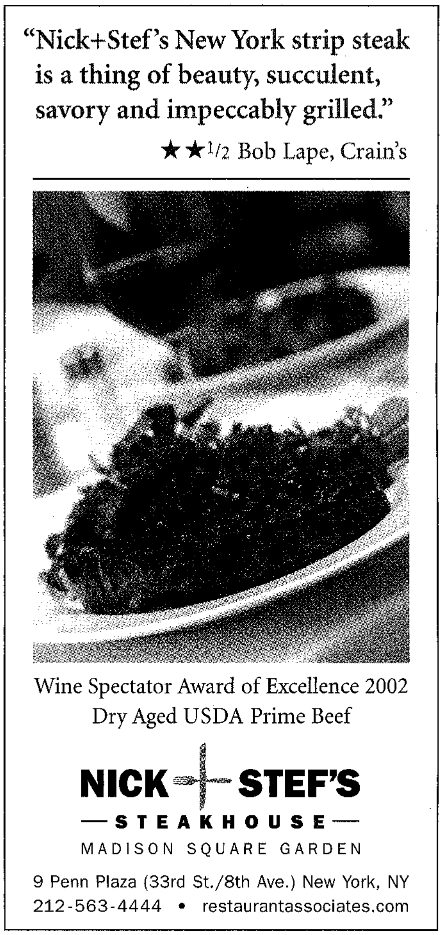
- **BrotherMen** (NOVEMBER 21; 10 TO 11 P.M.; Channel 13) is filmmaker Demetria Royals's celebration of the diverse arts of African-American songwriters, photographers, choreographers, dancers, and civil-rights activists, wonderfully including—for those of you asleep since World War II—Pop Staples and the Staple Singers.

- **Inside TV Land: Cops on Camera** (November 24; 9 to 10 P.M.; TV Land), while talking to Dick Wolf, Steven Bochco, Aaron Spelling, and Stephen J. Cannell, not only takes us from *Dragnet* through *Mod Squad* to *Miami Vice* and *NYPD Blue* but also includes videotape of the Rodney King beating.

- **The Search for Kennedy's PT 109** (November 24; 8 to 9 P.M.; MSNBC) follows the inevitable Robert Ballard into the waters of the South Pacific, where, clearly, *National Geographic Explorer* has run out of useful things to do with its time and money.

- **Ronald Reagan: A Legacy Remembered** (November 25; 9 to 11 P.M.; History Channel) is truly an amazement, a valentine to Ronnie from his wife and kids that manages not to interview anyone to the political left of Caspar Weinberger (except maybe Mikhail Gorbachev), although the Presidents Bush, father and son, do mention his shortcomings on, for instance, pollution and racism. This is History? No. This is Television. ■

John Leonard's reviews can be read at nymetro.com/archive/leonard.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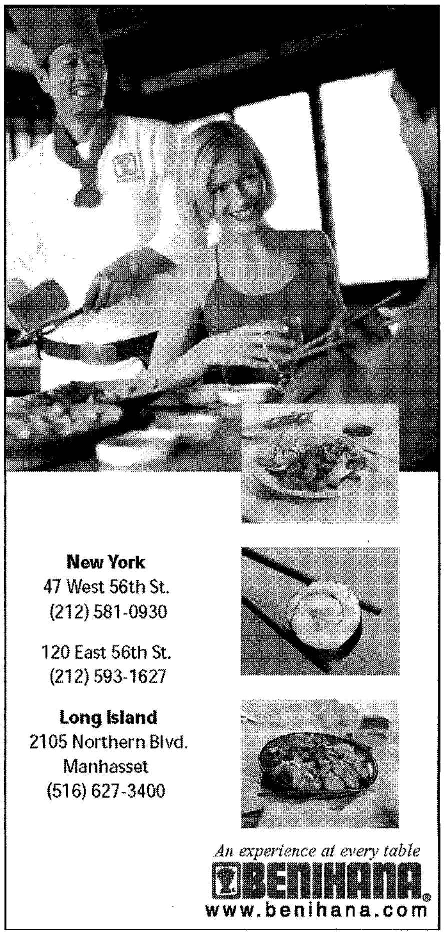
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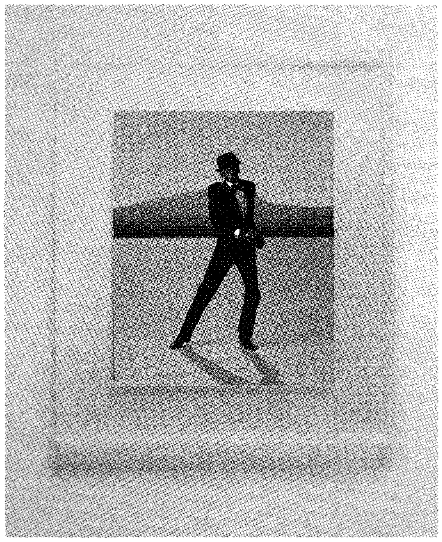

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Selling Points

Justin Timberlake flies solo and plays it safe; TLC hits with what will be a tribute to the late Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes.

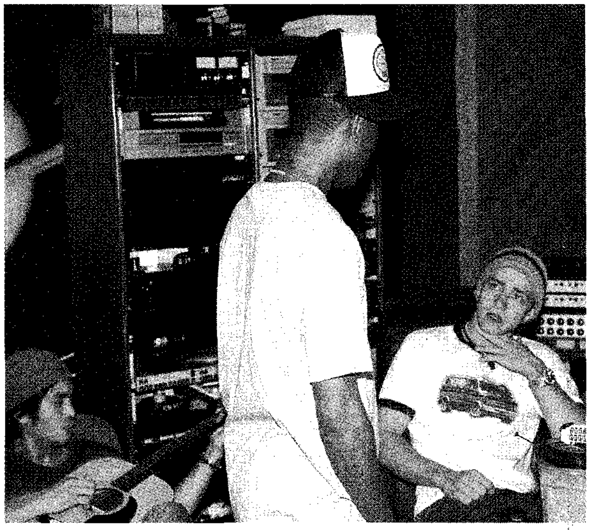
Justin Timberlake, *Justified* (Jive)

IN A MUSIC INDUSTRY THAT CONSIDERS PINK A punk and Eminem eloquent, it's no surprise that we're being asked to accept former 'N Sync front man Justin Timberlake as a soul man on his debut, **Justified.**

To be fair, in interviews Timberlake has praised R&B's inventive, open-minded past moments like "New Jack Swing" instead of the music's more noxious, misogynist current moment. And Timberlake's croon—the rare voice in pop that isn't oversung or paper-thin—made 'N Sync's sole venture into soul music, "Girlfriend," sweetly compelling.

On *Justified,* Timberlake has teamed up with the Neptunes, the Virginia Beach–based production duo behind "Girlfriend" as well as just about everything else on the radio right now, from No Doubt to Noreaga. The stamp of the Neptunes' Pharrell Williams—breathy vocals, sugary sentimentality, and bridges that recall the early-eighties work of Michael Jackson or Prince—is unmistakable here.

Timberlake and the Neptunes work hard at creating memorable songs, an admirable undertaking given the pathetic state of songwriting in pop music. But little more is expressed in songs like "Señorita" and "Take It From Here" than flowery notions of romance or brusque come-ons. To anyone who's followed the astonishing career of the Neptunes, this isn't surprising; they've always been better with beats and bass lines than with lyrics.



BEATS AND BASS LINES: The Neptunes—Chad Hugo, left, and Pharrell Williams—in the studio with Timberlake, right.

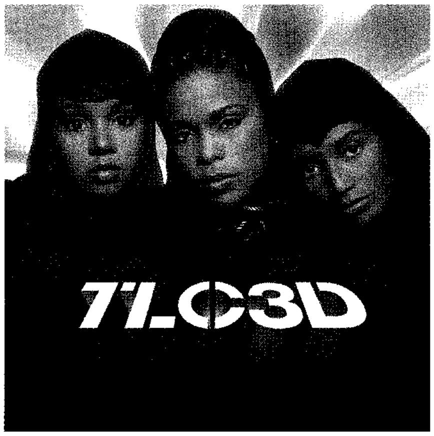
The ideal partner for Timberlake would have been Rodney Jerkins, a producer and songwriter so adept at expressing love and heartbreak that sometimes it seems as though he'd crawled inside the head of every couple on earth. But then again, two of Jerkins's most recent projects, Michael Jackson's *Invincible* and Brandy's *Full Moon,* were commercial disasters. Timberlake's solo debut is on track to sell more than 600,000 copies in a single week. These days, that's all the justification you need.

TLC, *3D* (Arista)

TLC HAVE THE TRAPPINGS OF A WILD BUNCH—the trio's been struck by everything from arson charges to bankruptcies—but their mayhem is usually kept off the record. Their new album, *3D,* was mostly finished before the group's final moment of drama: the death of rapper-vocalist Left Eye in a car crash. But like the TLC albums that preceded it, *3D* repeats their signature mix of innovative beats ("3D Intro"), sappy uplift ("Damaged"), and tough-gal disses ("Over Me").

Fortunately for TLC, there are always a few irresistible pop songs among such preprogrammed stuff: the wiry, guttural chords and hand claps of "Girl Talk" recall the street funk of James Brown's "The Payback," while the arrhythmic beats and Left Eye's un-

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN LIU/RETNA.



TRIBUTE: TLC's *3D,* the last album with Lisa Lopes.

hinged rants like "You need some ginseng for your thing thing so we can do it!" on "Quickie" bring a much-needed sense of lunacy to a group who seem more restrained inside the studio than out.

Charitable fans and critics will probably seize on the few sparks generated by *3D* to eulogize TLC as vanguards. The truth—that their riskier impulses were often tamped down by a conservative industry—is somewhat more depressing. A few months before her death, Left Eye told me that her wish list of producers (which included house-music wunderkind Chris Brann) had been rejected by her record label. That sense of adventurousness, and not the relatively tame *3D,* should stand as a testament to the singer.

Outhud, *Street Dad* (Kranky)

NEW YORK'S NEW-MUSIC SCENE HAS BEEN CELebrated here and in countless other publications, but a stunning release like Outhud's *Street Dad* makes one realize just how hot things are getting in the city.

Originally from Sacramento and now based in New York, this fivesome makes moody, wide-screen rock textured with all manner of influences from dub reggae to funk. Band member and mixer Justin Vandervolgen layers disruptive, percussive crashes that make for totally unique music: Imagine U2 recording in Lee "Scratch" Perry's Black Ark Studio.

New York rock is often criticized for being little more than the sum of its influences. But acts like Metro Area, LCD Soundsystem, and now Outhud prove that a mutant musical sensibility is starting to take shape here. As pleasing as pure-rock revivalists like the Strokes and the Walkmen can be, the real promise of New York music lies in such miscegenated stuff. ■

Ethan Brown's reviews can be read at nymetro.com/archive/music.

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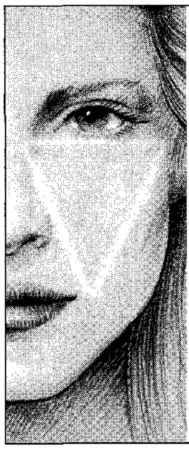

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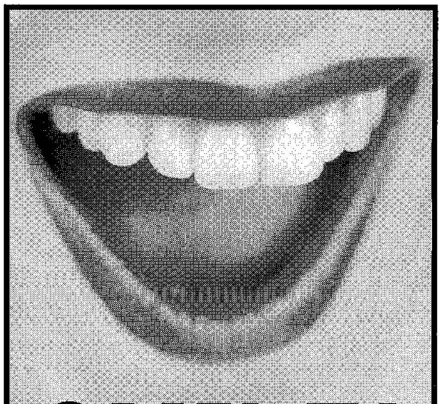

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ADAM PLATT

Shine On

Just to prove that you can't judge a boîte by its cover, Sciuscià ("shoeshine" in Sicilian) offers Italian-style culinary comfort in a chilly, almost Nordic space.

IN THE HIGH-STAKES WORLD OF restaurant poker, the sturdy comforts of a good Italian feed are a safe bet, the culinary equivalent of putting your money in savings bonds, or placing $2 on the favorite to show at Belmont for nine races in a row. Which may explain why, in this time of general economic distress, new Italian-influenced joints keep popping up around town like winter mushrooms. Not so long ago, the basement of the Hotel Giraffe on lower Park Avenue was occupied by a hipster French-Chinese fusion joint called Chinoiserie. Now it's home to **Sciuscià**, an "eclectic Mediterranean" restaurant where the specialties are various elegant varieties of pasta, along with meat loaf—albeit one cooked Neapolitan-style, with a boiled egg inside and a smothering of rich tomato sauce.

THE "SHOE" FITS: Diners at Sciuscià, in the Hotel Giraffe.

Sciuscià is Sicilian slang for "shoeshine," and also a reference to a somewhat obscure, though presumably brilliant, Italian film of the same name. The restaurant's culinary and aesthetic references, as conceived by Gianfranco Sorrentino (owner of the fine midtown restaurant Il Gattopardo), are, if anything, even more ambiguous. The room's interior has been sheathed in white metal paneling and looks spare and perhaps too clean, like the first-class lounge of some upscale Icelandic airline. There is nothing spare about the menu, however. It contains serviceable renditions of earthy delicacies from all over the Mediterranean map, like grilled rack of Moroccan lamb (very good), oily rashers of chorizo laid over garlic potatoes (quite good), even ground-lamb kibbeh, shaped like little doughnut holes and served with a minty yogurt sauce (predictably fine).

Sciuscià
365 Park Avenue South, near 26th Street (212-213-4008).

But in its heart, Sciuscià is mostly an Italian joint, and not a bad one at that. My friend the Italian snob turned up her nose at a deflated mound of zeppole made with ricotta cheese and served as an appetizer, but was effusive in her praise of the house pastas, particularly a bowl of flat, steamy paccheri, which is a kind of giant rigatoni, larded with a chunky tomato sauce and nuggets of buffalo ricotta. The risottos change daily, and the one I sampled was well made and tastefully dotted with bits of fresh zucchini and shrimp. The Neapolitan meat loaf was as comforting as a dish like that can be when served in the bowels of an antiseptically trendy Manhattan hotel, and so was the roast chicken, which was cooked in rosemary and garlic and contained satisfying deposits of lemon zest hidden under its crispy skin.

As befits a restaurant devoted to Mediterranean themes (and one with an Icelandic visual motif), the fish at Sciuscià is also generally superior. Cod brandade, a dish that can have all sorts of creepy variations in Manhattan, was properly leavened with olive oil and whipped potatoes, and served with a basket of warm pita bread for dipping. My turbot was dripped in a black-olive tapenade and cut in long tender slivers, and the flavorful orata was cooked with its head on, in the classic style, in a steamy parchment filled with fresh tomatoes. The loup de mer had a dense, almost unfishy quality (it's packed in exotic mounds of salt), the bouillabaisse had a light texture and was decently cooked, and the wild striped bass was meaty without being tough, and was served on a pile of French beans, braised onions, and peppery chorizo.

There's a wan little bar area designed, I suppose, to attract all the night owls prowling the lower regions of Park Avenue. The space works a little better at lunch, however, when the kitchen serves five regional tasting platters (Tuesday: Spain, Wednesday: Lebanon, etc.). There's also a decent selection of desserts, the most successful of which seem to feature fresh fruit. I liked the lightly classic sabayon, poured over a cocktail glass filled with berries, and the figs, which are split open and doused with crushed salty pistachios, bits of fresh orange, and spoonfuls of orange-blossom cream. Best of all, though, is the restaurant's raspberry napoleon, a delicate structure made with fresh cream and layers of lightly sugary pastry. It's elegantly rich without being too heavy, and costs $7 exactly, which is a modest sum to pay for a safe bet. ■

Sciuscià, Lunch, noon to 3 P.M. Dinner, 5 to 11:30 P.M. Appetizers $7 to $12; entrées $14 to $28. All major credit cards.

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY PATRIK RYTIKANGAS.

Movies

Edited by Ben Kaplan

NEW THIS WEEK

Better Housekeeping
Shrill "comedy" about a white-trash husband (Bob Mills) and wife (Petra Westen) going through a violent divorce while living in the same house. The actors' ability to keep this level of anger going is actually kind of remarkable, but the results are enormously unpleasant and tough to watch. (1 hr. 32 mins.; R) • Opens 11/20.

The Burning Wall
Absorbing, unflinching look at dissent and repression in East Germany between 1949 and 1989 makes a strong case that much of the opposition in the former Soviet-bloc country came from former idealists disillusioned by the grim reality of socialism. Impressively detailed film doesn't try to dumb anything down, making it a must for history buffs. (1 hr. 56 mins.; NR) • Opens 11/20.

Die Another Day
See Rainer, page 134. (2 hrs. 3 mins.; PG-13) • Opens 11/22.

The Emperor's Club
Kevin Kline plays an inspirational classics teacher who finds his usual charms powerless against a spoiled senator's son (Emile Hirsch). Kline does his best with a part requiring much talk but little insight, in a film with unfortunate resemblances to *Dead Poets Society*. Becomes simultaneously more ridiculous and more interesting in its final reel—but it's too little, too late. (1 hr. 49 mins.; PG-13) • Opens 11/22.

Friday After Next
Third film in the *Friday* series has Craig (Ice Cube) and Day-Day (Mike Epps) back in the 'hood, working as security guards after getting robbed by a thief dressed up as Santa Claus. Plotless comedy can't hold a candle to the original *Friday* but manages to sneak in a few tried-and-true gags during the inevitable climactic party sequence. (1 hr. 27 mins.; R) • Opens 11/22.

Personal Velocity
Three women reflect on their pasts at critical moments in their lives: An abused wife (Kyra Sedgwick) leaves her husband; an ambitious editor (Parker Posey) contends with an extramarital affair; a troubled girl (Fairuza Balk) helps a mysterious runaway. Ignore the verbose narration and the precious dialogue. The immediacy of director Rebecca Miller's visual style and the lovely performances make this worth watching. (See box.) (1 hr. 26 mins.; R) • Opens 11/22.

Power and Terror: Noam Chomsky in Our Times
Talky documentary follows MIT professor and leftist icon Noam Chomsky around as he discusses the terrorism of the powerful in a post-9/11 world. He makes plenty of valid points, but the controversy of his remarks warrants a more involved treatment; unfortunately, director John Junkerman never challenges his subject, always keeping him on a pedestal. For converts only. (1 hr. 14 mins.; NR) • Opens 11/22.

The Quiet American
See Rainer, page 134. (1 hr. 58 mins.; R) • Opens 11/22.

R-Xmas
Sleaze auteur Abel Ferrara (*Bad Lieutenant*) delivers a sloppy but involving druggie variation on *A Christmas Carol*. A husband-and-wife drug-dealing team (Drea de Matteo and Lillo Brancato) confront their evil ways after he is nabbed by a kidnapper with a conscience (Ice-T). Makes no sense, but Ferrara's unique sense of style keeps it going. (1 hr. 23 mins.; R) • Opens 11/22.

Talk to Her
See Rainer, page 134, and interview with Leonor Watling, page 148. In Spanish, with English subtitles. (1 hr. 56 mins.; R) • Opens 11/22.

REVIEWS BY BILGE EBIRI

TO *DIE* FOR: Halle Berry as Jinx, the latest Bond Girl, in *Die Another Day*.

Now Playing

All or Nothing
Mike Leigh's dolorous movie about a gaggle of working-class sufferers living in a south London housing project is all too familiar terrain for him. The chief protagonists are played by Timothy Spall, as a blotto taxi driver, and Lesley Manville as his sad-eyed wife. (Rainer; 10/28/02) (2 hrs. 8 mins.; R) • 9.

Ararat
Ambitious portrait of the Armenian genocide of the early twentieth century is less about history than its present-day resonance throughout the Armenian diaspora. Often fascinating, but a less aloof style might have more emotional impact. Co-starring Charles Aznavour and Elias Koteas; directed by Atom Egoyan. (1 hr. 55 mins.; R) • 2; 40.

Auto Focus
Paul Schrader's movie about the sordid life of Bob Crane, the star of *Hogan's Heroes*, has its low-key fascinations, but Crane, played with affable opacity by Greg Kinnear, is never much more than a cipher. Willem Dafoe co-stars. (Rainer; 10/21/02) (1 hr. 44 mins.; R) • 7; 16; 44.

★ Bloody Sunday
Paul Greenglass's stunning movie is perhaps the best filmed dramatization of civil war since Gillo Pontecorvo's *Battle of Algiers*. It takes place in one day—January 30, 1972—when British soldiers shot dead thirteen unarmed civilians taking part in a civil-rights march. James Nesbitt gives an extraordinary performance as the Protestant pol who organizes the march and is broken by its consequences. (Rainer; 10/7/02) (1 hr. 50 mins.; R) • 4.

★ Bowling for Columbine
Michael Moore explores the culture of violence and guns in America. It's a film that needs to be seen. (2 hrs. 5 mins.; R) • 6; 13; 16; 26; 28; 37; 44; 56; 73.

★ Brown Sugar
Two childhood best friends (Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan) secretly reassess their feelings for each other after one decides to get married. Winning romantic comedy treats its characters with surprising generosity. (1 hr. 42 mins.; PG-13) • 16; 39; 41; 48; 50; 52; 59.

★ Comedian
This documentary by Christian Charles mostly follows Jerry Seinfeld around as he puts together a brand-new stand-up act. At its best, the film is a fascinating chronicle of how comics do their thing. (Rainer; 10/21/02) (1 hr. 19 mins.; NR) • 6; 16; 17; 38; 61.

Derrida
Bewitching documentary follows the seminal French philosopher around as he gives lectures, eats breakfast, and otherwise leads an ordinary life. Lighthearted and entertaining portrait is the last thing you'd expect from a film about the father of deconstructionism. (1 hr. 25 mins.; NR) • 5.

★ 8 Mile
Curtis Hanson's movie starring Eminem as a Detroit hip-hop artist in 1995 is geared up to be an anthem for making the right choices in life, but luckily, its real subject is the euphoria that talent can bring. Eminem isn't a trained actor, but he holds the screen anyway. The script is uneven, but even the clichés about finding one's true voice have a pleasing, almost Depression-era innocence to them. At its best, the film is one of the year's sweetest joyrides. (Rainer; 11/4/02) (1 hr. 51 mins.; R) • 1; 10; 11; 14; 15; 22; 23; 28; 30; 35; 38; 39; 41; 42; 43; 46; 47; 48; 50; 53; 54; 55; 57; 58; 59; 60; 62; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73.

8 Women
Odd comedy-mystery-musical-melodrama about an extended family of women trapped in an estate after the man of the house has been murdered. Campy, clever idea eventually gets bogged down in arch posturing. Starring Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, and Emmanuelle Béart. (1 hr. 53 mins.; R) • 9; 16.

El Crimen del Padre Amaro
A priest (Gael García Bernal) has to face his passionate love for a girl (Ana Claudia Talancon) while also contending with the adultery, corruption, and drug dealing he sees among his fellow priests. The melodramatic film suffers from bland direction and ridiculous plotting, despite some fine performances. (2 hrs.; R) • 2; 37.

Étoiles: Dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet
A portrait of what may be the world's greatest ballet company, focusing on the dancers' drive and technique as well as their isolation and anxiety. The lovingly shot film succeeds best at capturing the excitement of performance. (1 hr. 40 mins.; NR) • 4.

★ Far From Heaven
Todd Haynes's movie is set in mid-fifties suburbia among the middle class and stars Julianne Moore as a dutiful matron and Dennis Quaid as her sales-executive husband. The picture is an artful attempt to re-create the look and manner of a Douglas Sirk weepie while at the same time including issues of race and sex. Quaid's performance as a man incinerated with self-loathing is very strong, and Moore does a commendable job as the sacrificial caregiver—the woman left behind by her times. (Rainer; 11/4/02) (1 hr. 50 mins.; PG-13) • 2; 11; 29; 37; 61.

★ Femme Fatale
Brian De Palma's thriller stars Rebecca Romijn-Stamos as a predatory, pansexual thief. At its best, the film is voluptuously romantic, and the romance, as is often the case with De Palma, is with the filmmak-

Ground Rules These synopses, where noted, are condensed versions of reviews by Peter Rainer. Stars (★) denote releases that *New York* recommends, ranging from best-of-the-year picks to worthy curios to flawed movies with one outstanding element. **NOTE: Each review is followed by numbers indicating theaters where the film is playing; a key to theaters begins on page 148.**

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEITH HAMSHERE.

ing process itself. It's pure pleasure, De Palma-style: twisted, nasty, a vast glissando of amorality. Antonio Banderas co-stars. (Rainer; 11/4/02) (1 hr. 52 mins.; R) • 1; 7; 13; 14; 15; 16; 26; 31; 40; 41; 43; 48; 50; 51; 54; 57; 59; 60; 62; 66; 68; 70; 71; 73.

Frida

Salma Hayek stars as the famous unibrowed Mexican artist who was married to Diego Rivera, played here by Alfred Molina. Hayek is a bundle of energy, but her torridness has few emotional levels. Director Julie Taymor pulls off some magical visual moments, especially when Kahlo's paintings are made to morph into live action, but most of her work is disappointingly conventional. (Rainer; 10/28/02) (2 hrs. 2 mins.; R) • 1; 2; 13; 15; 16; 26; 31; 40; 47; 56; 64; 73.

Ghost Ship

A salvage crew boards a floating, decayed luxury liner which mysteriously disappeared in the sixties, and finds out that—surprise!—it's haunted. Bizarre thriller starts off well, but then devolves into a convoluted mess of cheap shocks. Co-starring Gabriel Byrne. (1 hr. 28 mins.; R) • 16; 41; 42; 43; 48; 50; 51; 57; 59; 66; 71.

God Is Great, I'm Not

A model (Audrey Tautou) searching for meaning hooks up with a cagey, self-hating Jewish veterinarian (Edouard Baer) and becomes obsessed with his religion, much to his comic displeasure. Lighthearted, Woody Allen–esque romance works reasonably well as a study of two troubled souls, not so well as an exercise in empty stylization. In French, with English subtitles. (1 hr. 35 mins.; NR) • 25.

The Grey Zone

Tim Blake Nelson directs Steve Buscemi, David Arquette, Harvey Keitel, and Mira Sorvino in this story of the *Sonderkommando*, the Jewish prisoners at Auschwitz who staged a revolt. (1 hr. 48 mins.; R) • 63.

Half Past Dead

Steven Seagal is an undercover FBI agent in a reopened Alcatraz who unites the prisoners against the 49ers, a gang led by Morris Chestnut that infiltrates the jail to capture a death-row inmate who knows where to find $200 million in gold. Co-starring Ja Rule. (1 hr. 39 mins.; PG-13) • 1; 10; 12; 14; 15; 16; 28; 30; 38; 39; 41; 42; 43; 50; 53; 54; 57; 59; 66; 70; 71; 73.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

The next installment in the *Harry Potter* movie series is marginally better than the first outing—it's speedier and darker. But Chris Columbus, directing once again, is too literal-minded and unimaginative to bring out the entrancements in the J. K. Rowling material. The young actors, including Daniel Radcliffe as Harry, are more proficient this time around, and the older cast members, who include the late Richard Harris, Alan Rickman, and other luminaries, certainly hold the screen. But a franchise-film dullness overhangs everything. (Rainer; 11/11/02) (2 hrs. 40 mins.; PG) • 1; 10; 11; 14; 15; 17; 22; 30; 36; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 45; 46; 47; 49; 50; 51; 53; 54; 55; 57; 58; 59; 60; 62; 64; 66; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73.

Heaven

Tom Tykwer, of *Run Lola Run*, has directed a movie based on the last completed script by the late Krzysztof Kieslowski and turned it into a fuzzy allegory about fate and love and redemption. Cate Blanchett stars. (Rainer; 10/7/02) (1 hr. 37 mins.; R) • 3.

★ Hell House

A portrait of a Halloween "haunted house," created by a church organization in Texas, that's basically a chamber of horrors designed to warn children away from the sins on display. Mesmerizing, surprisingly touching documentary. (1 hr. 25 mins.; NR) • 4.

Hush!

A reserved engineer (Seichii Tanabe) contends with his burgeoning relationship with an outgoing man (Kazuya Takahashi) while also dealing with the advances of an eccentric woman (Reiko Kataoka) who wants him to father her child. Intermittently absorbing tale is alternately long-winded. (2 hrs. 15 mins.; NR) • 8.

I Spy

Owen Wilson plays a bumbling secret agent paired with obnoxious boxing champ Eddie Murphy to help foil an international weapons deal. Muddled high-concept buddy comedy (with almost no relation to the TV series) can't sustain much chemistry between its two leads. (1 hr. 36 mins.; PG-13) • 1; 10; 14; 15; 22; 30; 33; 39; 40; 41; 43; 48; 50; 54; 55; 57; 59; 60; 62; 66; 68; 69; 70; 71; 73.

★ Igby Goes Down

The problem child of a rich family (Kieran Culkin) gets expelled from private school and generally tries to avoid his distracted mother (Susan Sarandon), slimy godfather (Jeff Goldblum), and ambitious brother. Awkward but engaging film slowly grows on you until its devastating finale. (1 hr. 38 mins.; R) • 3; 12.

Interview With the Assassin

Fake documentary about an elderly man (Raymond Barry) claiming to be the second gunman in the JFK assassination does a good job re-creating the rough vérité look of the genre, as well as establishing a gripping sense of paranoia. (1 hr. 27 mins.; NR) • 2; 3.

★ Jackass: The Movie

Actually, there *is* something viscerally entertaining about a guy pole vaulting into sewage, or letting a baby alligator bite his nipple. (1 hr. 27 mins.; R) • 1; 10; 14; 15; 22; 33; 41; 43; 48; 51; 53; 54; 55; 57; 60; 62; 66; 70; 71; 73.

Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie

CGI-animated children's film features talking vegetables reenacting the biblical story of prophet Jonah (here portrayed as a snooty English asparagus). (1 hr. 23 mins.; G) • 47; 55; 59.

Love in the Time of Money

Uneven but surprisingly compelling series of vignettes about New Yorkers negotiating romantic exchanges. Has less to say than it thinks it does, but chugs along thanks to the delectable performances, particularly those by Rosario Dawson and Adrian Grenier. (1 hr. 30 mins.; R) • 8.

★ The Man From Elysian Fields

Bizarre tale of literary lust and intrigue works like a charm, thanks to its talented cast, which includes Andy Garcia and Mick Jagger, and peculiar, melancholy sense of humor. (1 hr. 45 mins.; R) • 63.

Mostly Martha

An obsessive chef (Martina Gedeck) finds her life unraveling when her young niece (Maxime Foerste) moves in and an Italian takes over her restaurant's kitchen. Gains power and charm thanks to Gedeck's nuanced performance. (1 hr. 47 mins.; PG) • 4; 19.

My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Innocuous comedy about the thirtysomething Toula, who is getting too old to marry, at least by her Greek family's standards. When a decidedly un-Greek Mr. Right (John Corbett) enters her life, things get even worse. (1 hr. 59 mins.; PG) • 1; 3; 14; 16; 28; 40; 54; 57; 60; 61; 69; 70; 71; 73.

Paid in Full

A dry cleaner's assistant (Wood Harris) becomes a drug dealer in the Harlem underworld of the eighties. Based on a true story, this convoluted crime flick offers lots of tough-guy posturing with little insight. (1 hr. 33 mins.; R) • 24; 41; 48; 50; 52; 59.

★ Punch-Drunk Love

Paul Thomas Anderson's movie stars Adam Sandler as a dweeb who works in the San Fernando Valley. He's in a fight with a phone-sex outfit and in love with a woman, played by Emily Watson. What makes this unlike other Sandler movies is the rage that periodically boils up inside him. Anderson wants us to see the fury coiled inside the mildness, but there's a lack of human conviction to this genuinely odd movie that keeps it from fully connecting. (Rainer; 10/14/02) (1 hr. 29 mins.; R) • 1; 10; 11; 15; 16; 32; 33; 40; 44; 47; 54; 60; 68.

Real Women Have Curves

A young Hispanic girl (America Ferrera) goes to work with her bickering but loving mom (Lupe Ontiveros) in a garment factory, where her headstrong ways clash with the more traditional co-workers. Film tackles ethnicity, weight, and self-esteem issues with no subtlety, but Ferrera and Ontiveros are still a joy to watch. (1 hr. 25 mins.; PG-13) • 6; 16; 37; 45; 51; 61; 73.

Red Dragon

Prequel to *Silence of the Lambs* has FBI investigator Will Graham (Ed Norton) utilizing the services of Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) to catch a killer (Ralph Fiennes). By-the-numbers thriller still manages its share of shocks. (2 hrs. 6 mins.; R) • 16; 41; 54; 56; 60.

Revolution #9

A man (Michael Risley) becomes convinced his mind is being programmed by technology and begins slipping into madness, while his girlfriend (Adrienne Shelly) struggles to save him. Director Tim McCann's stylish film gets progressively more confusing as it wavers between social commentary and thrills. (1 hr. 31 mins.; NR) • 8.

The Ring

Naomi Watts stars in Gore Verbinski's remake of a Japanese horror film about a haunted videotape; its viewers wind up dead seven days after seeing the film. (1 hr. 55 mins.; PG-13) • 1; 10; 11; 14; 15; 22; 28; 30; 35; 38; 39; 41; 42; 43; 48; 49; 50; 51; 54; 57; 59; 60; 62; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73.

★ Roger Dodger

Dylan Kidd's fascinating, uneven debut is about a cynical adman, played furiously well by Campbell Scott, who spends a long night's journey into day teaching his

Festival

Sweet Sixteen

Of the 100 movie premieres at **MIX 2002: The 16th New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film/Video Festival**, at the Anthology Film Archives, only one—*Diary of a Male Whore*—examines the Middle East crisis through the stories of a Palestinian prostitute and his Israeli trick. But the others, including shorts from Brazil, epics from the Netherlands, and documentaries from the Lower East Side, are no less unexpected, with subjects like queer performance troupes, clairvoyant Taiwanese teenagers, and, in Gregg Bordowitz's *Habit*, an AIDS survivor who discovers humility in South Africa. Definitely for the serious filmgoer; probably not for the prude. Opens November 20. (See "Museums, Societies, Etc." for listings.)

ROLL PLAY: Drag queens Kennedy and Jordan L'Moore in the MIX festival's gender-bending send-up *The Stroke*.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF NEW YORK LESBIAN AND GAY EXPERIMENTAL FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL.

16-year-old nephew, played equally well by Jesse Eisenberg, the ropes about the opposite sex. (Rainer; 10/28/02) (1 hr. 45 mins.; R) • 6; 16; 40.

☆ The Rules of Attraction
Hyperstylized treatment of the Bret Easton Ellis novel about a bunch of college kids obsessed with one another. Episodic film seems at times to be as confused as its characters, but it has wit, energy, and great performances (particularly by James Van der Beek as a sensitive drug dealer) to spare. (1 hr. 50 mins.; R) • 7.

The Santa Clause 2
Sequel to 1994 family hit has Tim Allen, now firmly established as Santa Claus, leaving the North Pole to look for a wife. Convoluted storyline feels like 60 people helped write it. (1 hr. 45 mins.; G) • 1; 10; 14; 21; 22; 26; 28; 38; 39; 41; 42; 43; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 53; 54; 55; 57; 58; 59; 60; 62; 65; 66; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73.

Secretary
James Spader plays a heavily uptight lawyer and Maggie Gyllenhaal the secretary who lures him into S&M in this naughty trifle with Buñuelian pretensions. (Rainer; 9/23/02) (1 hr. 51 mins.; R) • 3; 16; 18.

Shanghai Ghetto
Documentary about the plight of European Jews who fled Nazism and made their way to Shanghai. An informative and worthwhile, if visually uninteresting, film. (1 hr. 40 mins.; NR) • 8; 63.

★ Spirited Away
A marvelously lyrical and disturbing animated feature from Japan about a 10-year-old girl's adventures in a fantasy land that owes much to Grimm and Lewis Carroll and yet is wholly the filmmaker's own. (Rainer; 10/7/02) (2 hrs. 2 mins.; PG) • 3; 16.

Standing in the Shadows of Motown
Documentary of the Funk Brothers, Motown's sixties house band, told through archives, interviews, and performance footage of the newly reunited group. (1 hr. 42 mins.; PG) • 2; 16; 34; 39.

Strange Fruit
Captivating documentary traces the journey of the anti-lynching song "Strange Fruit," written by a Bronx schoolteacher, popularized by Billie Holliday, and immortalized by the civil-rights struggle. Paired with *One Girl Against the Mafia*, about a Sicilian girl who dared to testify against la Cosa Nostra. (57 mins.; NR) • 5.

Sweet Home Alabama
A New York designer (Reese Witherspoon) gets proposed to by the mayor's son (Patrick Dempsey), then heads home to Alabama to procure a divorce from her estranged husband, trying to cover up her impoverished past. (1 hr. 45 mins.; PG-13) • 3; 16; 40; 56; 63; 71.

The Transporter
Comic-book-style story gets comic-book-style treatment, with wacky stunts, incongruous fight scenes, and ridiculous macho posturing. Doesn't make much sense, but who cares? (1 hr. 32 mins.; PG-13) • 16.

★ The Trials of Henry Kissinger
Powerfully muckraking. (Rainer; 9/23/02) (2 hrs. 7 mins.; NR) • 5.

The Truth About Charlie
Jonathan Demme's remake of *Charade* stars Mark Wahlberg and Thandie Newton, whose luminescence is the best reason to see the movie. (Rainer; 11/4/02) (1 hr. 44 mins.; PG-13) • 1; 7; 27.

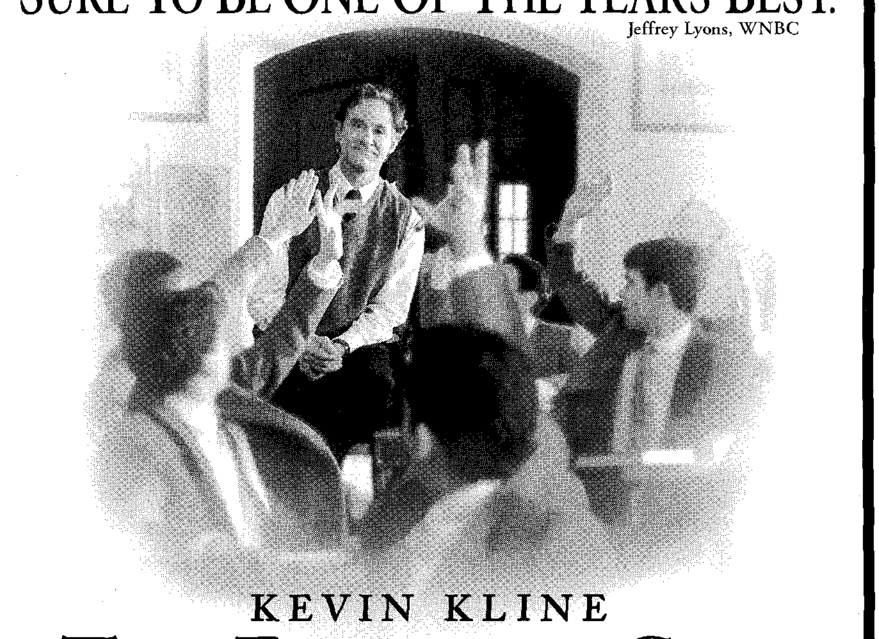
★ Tully
A brooding young man (Anson Mount) faces his problems with women and his family's past after their farm is threatened with foreclosure. Gorgeous, quietly devastating film takes its time, but features heartbreaking performances all around. (1 hr. 42 mins.; NR) • 3; 61.

The Tuxedo
A hapless chauffeur (Jackie Chan) becomes a secret agent after putting on a crime-fighting tuxedo. Chan's legendary charisma can't save this dull mishmash of lazy action sequences. (1 hr. 35 mins.; PG-13) • 16.

★ The Way Home
A bratty young boy goes to live with his frail, mute grandmother in her remote shack. Yes, it's a classic setup for sentimentality, and, sure enough, it works: Director Lee Jung-hyang expertly (and shamelessly) jerks every possible tear out of her viewers' ducts. (1 hr. 25 mins.; PG) • 8.

The Weight of Water
Kathryn Bigelow film about a photographer

"SURE TO BE ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST."
Jeffrey Lyons, WNBC



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(Catherine McCormack) investigating a mysterious nineteenth-century double murder while her marital difficulties rise to the surface (Sean Penn plays her husband). Interweaves period story with the present day, but can't make the conceit work, becoming progressively more confusing and repetitive. (1 hr. 54 mins.; R) • 24.

★ **White Oleander**

Homiletic but affecting. It's about a young girl and her convicted-murderer mother and the various foster families the girl passes through. Alison Lohman is the troubled teen, Michelle Pfeiffer is her mother, and Robin Wright Penn and Renée Zellweger play foster mothers. They are all extraordinary. (Rainer; 10/14/02) (1 hr. 50 mins.; PG-13) • 7; 16; 19; 40; 51.

Spotlight

While You Were Sleeping

"I've been asked a million times about Penélope Cruz," says **Leonor Watling**, Madrid's second-hottest export and star of Pedro Almodóvar's *Talk to Her*. "I'm flattered by the comparison, but I hope I can make my own impressions." Impress us she has—amazing, considering that the 27-year-old plays a ballet dancer who spends most of *Talk to Her* in a coma. "The only way I could impress Pedro was by not doing anything. I closed my eyes and forgot I was doing a film—I thought no one would see me, no one would notice I'm there." Quite the opposite happened, and now she finds herself posing for *Vogue* and starring opposite Mark Ruffalo in *My Life Without Me*. "I'm not sure how much I want my life changed. I'm afraid Hollywood might be like an Almodóvar film: a beautiful world to look at, a terrible place to live." *Talk to Her* opens November 22. (See Peter Rainer's review, page 134.)

TASTE OF STARDOM: Leonor Watling (here with Pedro Almodóvar) goes international in *Talk to Her*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER LINDBERGH.

Manhattan

Below 14th Street

1. Battery Park City Cinema
102 North End Ave. (212-945-3418) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Frida; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Punch-Drunk Love; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2; The Truth About Charlie

2. CC Angelika Film Center
18 W. Houston St. (212-995-2000) • Ararat; El Crimen del Padre Amaro; Far From Heaven; Frida; Interview With the Assassin; Standing in the Shadows of Motown

3. CC Village East
189 Second Ave. (212-529-6799) • Heaven; Igby Goes Down; Interview With the Assassin; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Secretary; Spirited Away; Sweet Home Alabama; Tully

4. Cinema Village
22 E. 12th St. (212-924-3363) • Bloody Sunday; Étoiles: Dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet; Hell House; Mostly Martha

5. Film Forum
209 W. Houston St. (212-727-8110) • Derrida; Strange Fruit; The Trials of Henry Kissinger (see also "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

6. Landmark Sunshine Cinema
143 E. Houston St. (212-358-7709) • Bowling for Columbine; Comedian; Real Women Have Curves; Roger Dodger (see also "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

7. Loews Village
66 Third Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#952) • Auto Focus; Femme Fatale; The Rules of Attraction; The Truth About Charlie; White Oleander

8. Quad Cinema
34 W. 13th St. (212-255-8800) • Hush!; Love in the Time of Money; Revolution #9; Shanghai Ghetto; The Way Home

9. The Screening Room
54 Varick St. (212-334-2100) • All or Nothing; 8 Women; Trembling Before G-d

10. UA Union Square
13th St. and Broadway (212-253-2225) • 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Punch-Drunk Love; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

14th–41st Streets

11. Clearview's Chelsea
260 W. 23rd St. (212-777-FILM#597) • 8 Mile; Far From Heaven; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Punch-Drunk Love; The Ring

12. Clearview's Chelsea West
333 W. 23rd St. (212-777-FILM#614) • Half Past Dead; Igby Goes Down

13. Loews 19th St. East
890 Broadway, at 19th St. (212-50-LOEWS#858) • Bowling for Columbine; Femme Fatale; Frida

14. Loews 34th St. Theatre
312 W. 34th St. (212-244-8850) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

15. Loews Kips Bay Theatre
550 Second Ave., at 32nd St. (212-50–LOEWS#558) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Frida; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Punch-Drunk Love; The Ring

42nd–60th Streets

16. AMC Empire 25 Theatres
234 W. 42nd St. (212-398-3939) • Auto Focus; Bowling for Columbine; Brown Sugar; Comedian; 8 Women; Femme Fatale; Frida; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Punch-Drunk Love; Real Women Have Curves; Red Dragon; Roger Dodger; Secretary; Spirited Away; Standing in the Shadows of Motown; Sweet Home Alabama; The Transporter; The Tuxedo; White Oleander

17. CC Cinemas 1, 2, 3
1001 Third Ave., at 60th St. (212-753-6022) • Comedian; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

18. CC Eastside Playhouse
919 Third Ave., nr. 55th St. (212-755-3020) • Secretary

19. CC Sutton
205 E. 57th St. (212-759-1411) • Mostly Martha; White Oleander

20. Clearview's 59th Street East
239 E. 59th St. (212-777-FILM#615) • Auto Focus

21. Clearview's Ziegfeld
141 W. 54th St. (212-777-FILM#602) • The Santa Clause 2

22. Loews 42nd Street E Walk
42nd St. at Eighth Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#572) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

23. Loews Astor Plaza
44th St. at Eighth Ave. (212-50-LOEWS#699) • 8 Mile

24. Loews State
1540 Broadway, nr. 45th St. (212-50-LOEWS#901) • Paid in Full; The Weight of Water

25. Paris Theatre
4 W. 58th St. (212-688-3800) • God Is Great, I'm Not

61st Street and Above, East Side

26. CC 86th St. East
210 E. 86th St. (212-777-FILM#763) • Bowling for Columbine; Femme Fatale; Frida; The Santa Clause 2

27. Clearview's Beekman
1254 Second Ave., nr. 65th St. (212-777-FILM#606) • The Truth About Charlie

28. Clearview's First & 62nd St.
400 E. 62nd St. (212-777-FILM#957) • Bowling for Columbine; 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

29. Loews 72nd St. East
1230 Third Ave., nr. 72nd St. (212-50-LOEWS#704) • Far From Heaven

30. Loews Orpheum 7
1538 Third Ave., at 86th St. (212-50-LOEWS#964) • 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; The Ring

31. New York Twin
1271 Second Ave., nr. 66th St. (212-505-CINE#590) • Femme Fatale; Frida

32. UA East
1629 First Ave., at 85th St. (212-249-5100) • Punch-Drunk Love

33. UA Gemini
1210 Second Ave., at 64th St. (212-832-1670) • I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Punch-Drunk Love

61st Street and Above, West Side

34. Clearview's 62nd and Broadway
1871 Broadway, at 62nd St. (212-777-FILM#864) • Standing in the Shadows of Motown

35. Clearview's Metro Cinema
2626 Broadway, nr. 99th St. (212-777-FILM#609) • 8 Mile; The Ring

36. Clearview's Olympia
2770 Broadway, nr. 106th St. (212-777-FILM#613) • Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

37. Lincoln Plaza Cinemas
30 Lincoln Plaza, on Broadway nr. 62nd St. (212-757-2280) • Bowling for Columbine; El Crimen del Padre Amaro; Far From Heaven; Real Women Have Curves

38. Loews 84th Street
2310 Broadway, at 84th St. (212-50-LOEWS#701) • Comedian; 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

39. Magic Johnson Harlem USA
300 W. 125th St. (212-665-8733) • Brown Sugar; 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2; Standing in the Shadows of Motown

40. Sony Lincoln Square
1998 Broadway, at 68th St. (212-50-LOEWS#638) • Ararat; Femme Fatale; Frida; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Punch-Drunk Love; Roger Dodger; Sweet Home Alabama; White Oleander

Bronx

41. Bay Plaza
2210 Bartow Ave., behind Bay Plaza Mall (718-777-

FILM#833) • Brown Sugar; 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Paid in Full; Red Dragon; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

42. Concourse Plaza
214 E. 161st St. (718-588-8800) • 8 Mile; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

43. Whitestone
2505 Bruckner Blvd., at Hutchinson River Pkwy. (718-409-9030) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

Brooklyn

44. BAM Rose Cinemas
30 Lafayette Ave. (718-623-2770) • Auto Focus; Bowling for Columbine; Punch-Drunk Love (see also "Museums, Societies, Etc.")

45. Brooklyn Heights Pavilion
70 Henry St. (718-369-0838) • Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Real Women Have Curves

46. Canarsie
9310 Ave. L, at E. 93rd St. (718-251-0700) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; The Santa Clause 2

47. Cobble Hill Cinema
265 Court St. (718-596-9113) • 8 Mile; Frida; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie; Punch-Drunk Love; The Santa Clause 2

48. Court Street 14
106 Court St. (718-246-7469) • Brown Sugar; 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Paid in Full; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

49. Kent Triplex
Coney Island Ave. at Ave. H (718-338-3371) • Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

50. Linden Boulevard Multiplex
Linden Blvd. and Eldert Lane (718-277-0303) • Brown Sugar; 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Paid in Full; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

51. Pavilion
188 Prospect Park West (718-369-0838) • Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Jackass: The Movie; Real Women Have Curves; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2; White Oleander

52. Pavilion Flatbush
314 Flatbush Ave. (718-596-7070) • Brown Sugar; Paid in Full

53. Ridgewood
55-27 Myrtle Ave., at Putnam Ave. (718-821-5993) • 8 Mile; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; Jackass: The Movie; The Santa Clause 2

54. UA Movies at Sheepshead Bay
3907 Shore Pkwy., off Exit 9 at Belt Pkwy. (718-615-1700) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Punch-Drunk Love; Red Dragon; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

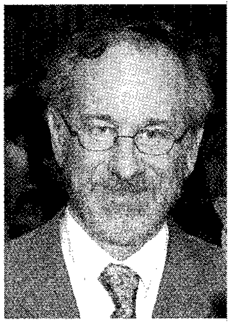
Queens

55. Centre Sunnyside
42-17 Queens Blvd. (718-361-6869) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie; The Santa Clause 2

56. Cinemart
106-03 Metropolitan Ave., at 72nd Rd., Forest Hills (718-261-2244) • Bowling for Columbine; Frida; Red Dragon; Sweet Home Alabama

57. College Point Multiplex
28-55 Ulmer St., Whitestone (718-886-4900) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

58. Jackson Triplex
82nd St. at Roosevelt Ave. (718-478-6777) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; The Santa Clause 2



WE THOUGHT THEY WERE EXTINCT! *Jurassic Park* is back with its fourth (yes, *fourth*) installment. **Steven Spielberg** (pictured), who directed the first two films in the series, will produce this one, along with **Kathleen Kennedy** (*A.I., Signs*). No director has been signed; Universal Pictures will distribute.

TILL DEATH DO US PART Director **Doug Liman** (pictured) (*Go, Swingers*) is in talks to direct *Mr. and Mrs. Smith,* a film that's been described as *The War of the Roses* meets *True Lies:* A bored married couple discover they're enemy assassins hired to kill each other. It'll be produced by **Patrick Wachsberger** and Oscar-winning screenwriter **Akiva Goldsman** (*A Time to Kill* and *A Beautiful Mind*) through the latter's Weed Road Pictures; production starts next year. No stars have been signed; Fox will distribute.

ANALYZE THIS *Variety* reports that **Julianne Moore** has signed on to star in the adaptation of **Augusten Burroughs**'s memoir, *Running With Scissors.* Moore plays Burroughs's bipolar mother, Diedre, who eventually gives custody of her son to her psychiatrist. No start date has been given, but the budget is said to be in the $15 million to $20 million range. **Ryan Murphy** (creator of the now-defunct WB series *Popular*) is set to direct, **Matt Kennedy** (formerly of United Artists) to produce; no distributor is yet attached.

HOWARD'S BEGINNING Director **Martin Scorsese** is ready to start production on the long-discussed **Howard Hughes** biopic *The Aviator.* **Leonardo DiCaprio**, Scorsese's leading man from the upcoming *Gangs of New York,* will star, and his production company, Appian Way, will distribute. **Michael Mann** (*Ali*) is producing. Filming is scheduled to begin this March in Los Angeles.

LAUREN DECARLO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBIN PLATZER/TWIN IMAGES.

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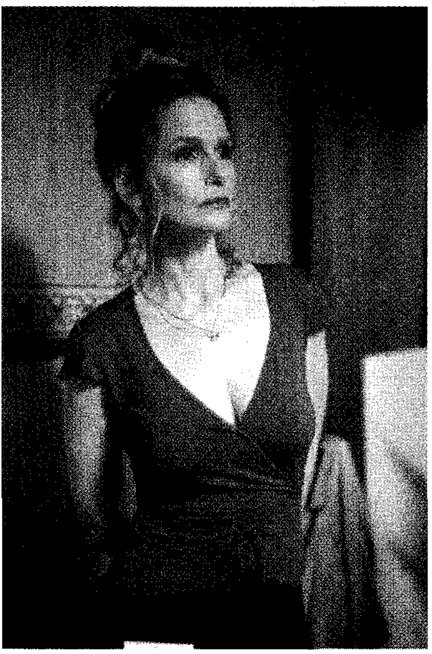
Spotlight

Six Degrees of Kyra Sedgwick

"It took a lot of guts to hire me," says **Kyra Sedgwick**. "I've never been presented with such a wonderful, dark, complicated, angry, sexual, sensual character before." She's talking about her role in *Personal Velocity,* the second film by writer-director Rebecca Miller (*Angela*), in which Sedgwick, Parker Posey, and Fairuza Balk star in three coming-of-middle-age vignettes. "Parker has a really great New York story—it's got layers of meaning—while Fairuza's sequence is like a dream world," Sedgwick says. "Mine is down-and-dirty, based in reality. I've never been in that kind of abusive relationship, but I don't think it's far away from any of us—a word turns into a shove, into a slap, into a punch," Sedgwick says from Austin, where she's shooting *Secondhand Lions* with Robert Duvall and a revitalized-yet-again Michael Caine. "It was also empowering to play a woman who's a very sexual being. It's like a man who's cocksure and confident—it's not being manipulative; it's just being true." Opens November 22.

FAST AND FURIOUS: Kyra Sedgwick takes a break from gentler roles in *Personal Velocity.*



59. Jamaica Multiplex Cinema
1 Jamaica Center, at Jamaica Ave. and Parsons Blvd. (718-291-9400) • Brown Sugar; 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jonah: A VeggieTales Movie; Paid in Full; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

60. Kaufman Astoria Cinema
38th St. at 35th Ave. (718-786-2020) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Punch-Drunk Love; Red Dragon; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

61. Kew Gardens Cinemas
81-05 Lefferts Blvd. (718-441-9835) • Comedian; Far From Heaven; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Real Women Have Curves; Tully

62. Main Street Cinemas
72-66 Main St. (718-263-4828) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2; Spy Kids 2

63. North Shore Towers
27-10 Grand Central Pkwy., Floral Park (718-229-7702) • The Grey Zone; The Man From Elysian Fields; Shanghai Ghetto; Sweet Home Alabama

64. Plaza
103–14 Roosevelt Ave., at 103rd St., Corona (718-639-0012) • Frida; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

65. UA Brandon Cinema
70-20 Austin St., Forest Hills (718-544-1020) • The Santa Clause 2

66. UA Crossbay II
92-10 Rockaway Blvd., at 93rd St., Ozone Park (718-641-5330) • Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; The Santa Clause 2

67. UA Crossbay III
94-11 Rockaway Blvd., at Woodhaven Blvd., Ozone Park (718-848-1738) • 8 Mile; The Ring

68. UA Midway
108-22 Queens Blvd., at 71st Ave., Forest Hills (718-544-5545) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Punch-Drunk Love; The Ring

69. UA Movieworld
242-02 61st Ave., off Exit 31, Douglaston (718-423-7200) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

Staten Island

70. Atrium
680 Arthur Kill Rd., nr. Richmond Ave., Eltingville (718-317-8300) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

71. Staten Island Stadium 16
2474 Forest Ave. (718-273-4200) • 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Ghost Ship; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2; Sweet Home Alabama

72. UA Hylan Plaza
107 Mill Rd., at Hylan Blvd., New Dorp (718-351-0805) • 8 Mile; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

73. UA Movies at Staten Island
141 E. Service Rd., at Victory Blvd., Travis (718-983-9600) • Bowling for Columbine; 8 Mile; Femme Fatale; Frida; Half Past Dead; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets; I Spy; Jackass: The Movie; My Big Fat Greek Wedding; Real Women Have Curves; The Ring; The Santa Clause 2

Museums, Societies, Etc.

74. American Museum of the Moving Image
36-01 35th Ave., Astoria (718-784-0077); $8.50. • "Directed by Martin Scorsese." 11/23: *The Last Waltz* (1978); *American Boy* (1978). 11/24: *Raging Bull* (1980).

75. Ames Auditorium
111 E. 59 St. (Lighthouse International Building); $50 subscription fee for entire series. • "Monday Nights With Oscar." 11/25: *You Can't Take It With You* (1938). 12/9: *Hamlet* (1948). 1/13: *Gigi* (1958). 2/10: *Oliver* (1968). 3/10: *The Deer Hunter* (1978).

76. Anthology Film Archives
32 Second Ave. (212-505-5110); $9. • "MIX 2002: The 16th New York Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film/Video Festival." 11/21: *Habit* (2001). 11/22: *A Circus in New York* (2002). 11/23: *Nebel* (2000); *I Love the Sound of Kalachnikov, It Reminds Me of Tchaikovski* (2001); *Body Double X* (2000). 11/24: *Tom* (2002).

77. BAM Rose Cinemas
30 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn (718-636-4100); $9. • "From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam War on Film." 11/20: *The War at Home* (2000). 11/21: *Daughter From Danang* (2002). 11/22: *Regret to Inform* (2000). 11/24: *Bat*21* (1988). 11/25: *Casualties of War* (1989). 11/26: *Breathe In/Breathe Out* (2000); *Karma* (1986). 11/27: *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989).

78. Center For Jewish History
15 W. 16th St. (917-606-8200); $7. • "Lens on Polish Jewry." 11/25: *The Cross Inscribed in the Star of David* (2000); *The Secret* (2001).

79. Cinema Classics
332 E. 11th St. (212-677-5368); $5. • 11/25-11/28: *Tom Jones* (1963).

80. Film Forum
209 W. Houston St. (212-727-8110); $9.75. • 11/20-11/21: *Singin' in the Rain* (1952). (In Dolby stereo, new digital restoration). 11/22-12/5: *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* (1970).

81. Film Society of Lincoln Center
65 W. 65th St., plaza level (212-875-5600); $9. • "Transcendent Realism: New and Old From Belgium." 11/20: *Villa des Roses* (2002). 11/21: *The Promise* (1996); *Less Dead Than the Others* (1992). 11/22: *Thursday We Shall Sing Like Sunday* (1967). 11/23: *Les Enfants de l'Amour* (2001).

82. Instituto Cervantes
122 E. 42nd St., Suite 807 (212-689-4232); free. • "Nuestro Cine Presents: Recent Latin American Cinema." 11/20: *El Triángulo del Lago* (2000).

83. Japan Society
333 E. 47th St. (212-832-1155); $11. • "Matsuri: Festivals in Japanese Cinema." 11/22: *August in the Water* (1995). 12/3: *Himatsuri* (1985).

84. Landmark Sunshine Cinema
143 E. Houston St. (212-358-0576); $10. • "Midnight Movies." 11/22-11/23: *Live Flesh* (1997).

85. Makor
35 W. 67th St. (212-601-1000); $9. • 11/25: *Her Israel* (2001).

86. MoMA at the Gramercy Theatre
127 E. 23rd St. (212-777-4900); $12. • "Isn't It Romantic? Richard Rodgers at the Movies." 11/21-11/22: *The Hot Heiress* (1931). 11/22: *Richard Rodgers: The Sweetest Sounds* (2001). 11/22-11/23: *Dancing Lady* (1933); *Masters of Melody* (1929); *Love Me Tonight* (1932). 11/23: *Heavenly Creatures* (1994); *Mississippi* (1935); *The Phantom President* (1932). 11/23: *The Sound of Music* (1935). 11/24: *Hallelujah, I'm a Bum* (1933); *Dancer in the Dark* (2000). 11/25: *State Fair* (1945); *Shall We Dance?* (1996).

87. N.I.C.E. Film Festival
34 W. 13th St. (212-255-8800); $9 • "New Italian Cinema Events." 11/20: *Let's Have the Truth About Love* (2002); *Our Tropical Island* (2002); *The Comeback* (2000). 11/21: *Our Tropical Island* (2002); *Let's Have the Truth About Love* (2002).

88. National Museum of the American Indian
1 Bowling Green (212-514-3737); free. • "Viewpoints From Chiapas and Guerrero." 11/20-11/24: *The Sixth Sun: Maya Uprising in Chiapas* (1996).

89. Ocularis
70 N. 6th St., Brooklyn (718-388-8713); $5. • 11/24: *Ratcatcher* (2000).

90. Scandinavia House
Victor Borge Hall, 58 Park Ave., nr. 38th St. (212-779-3587); $8 • "Nordic Directors' Series: Directors From the Edge." (Finland; Mika Kaurismäki). 11/20: *L.A. Without a Map* (1998). (Iceland; Fridrik Fridriksson). 12/4: *Falcons* (2002). 12/5: *Cold Fever* (1994).

91. Symphony Space/The Leonard Nimoy Thalia
2537 Broadway, at 95th St. (212-864-5400); $9. • "New Cinema Novo: Recent Brazilian Cinema." 11/23: *Days of Nietzsche in Turin* (2001); *A Life of Passion* (2000). 11/24: *O Xango de Baker Street* (2001); *The Inheritance* (2001).

92. Two Boots Pioneer Theater
155 E. 3rd St. (212-254-3300); $5. • "The Den of Music Mania." 11/25: *Aria* (1988).

93. YWCA Cine-Club
610 Lexington Ave., at 53rd St. (212-735-9717); $7. • "The Cinema of Robert Bresson." 11/23-11/24: *A Man Escaped* (1956).

PHOTOGRAPH BY INGE MORATH/MAGNUM PHOTOS.

Edited by Ada Calhoun

Broadway

Previews and Openings

Dance of the Vampires
Michael Crawford, the original Phantom of the Opera, stars as Count Von Krolock, a nineteenth-century vampire who tries to win the soul and body of a beautiful young woman. $25-$95. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. In previews for an 11/21 opening. • Minskoff Theatre, 200 W. 45th St. (212-307-4100).

Dinner at Eight
High-society New Yorkers behave badly to highly comic effect in George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's 1932 dinner-party play. $55–$70. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews starting 11/21 for a 12/19 opening. No matinee on 11/23. • Vivian Beaumont Theater, Lincoln Center (212-239-6200).

Imaginary Friends
Swoosie Kurtz and Cherry Jones star in Nora Ephron's play about the vicious rivalry between writers Lillian Hellman and Mary McCarthy. $55–$90. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. In previews starting 11/25 for a 12/12 opening. • Barrymore Theatre, 243 W. 47th St. (212-239-6200).

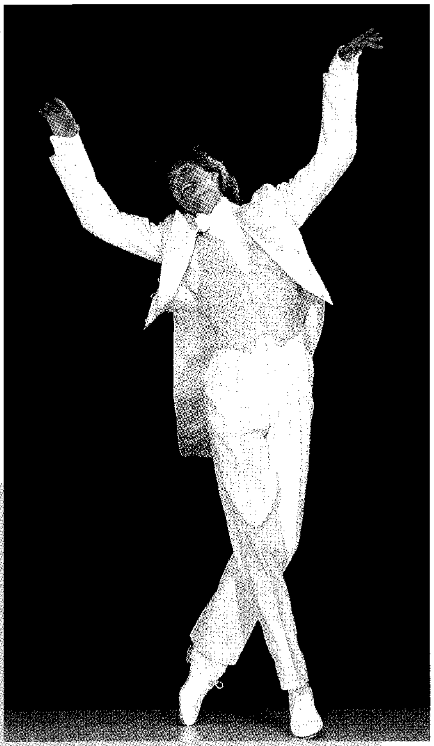
Man of La Mancha
Tony winner Brian Stokes Mitchell plays the windmill-chaser in this new production of the beloved 1965 musical. $25–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews starting 11/23 for a 12/5 opening. (See box.) • Martin Beck Theatre, 302 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Our Town
Direct from the Westport Country Playhouse, Thornton Wilder's play about 1903 Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, arrives on Broadway, starring Paul Newman in his first stint on Broadway since 1964. $75. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews starting 11/22 for a 12/4 opening. Additional performance 11/25 at 8. Through 1/26/03. • Booth Theatre, 222 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

Previews

A Tuneful Show

"I've circled the globe with my circle of friends," Tommy Tune is singing to us over the phone. The friends in question are the Manhattan Rhythm Kings, a close-harmony trio with whom he's worked for two decades, and they really have been everywhere. Tune even played Las Vegas for two years (and 900 performances of a show called *EFX*). Now the six-foot-six Texan song-and-dance man is returning to the New York stage (specifically, the brand-new Little Shubert Theatre) on November 26 for performances of **Tommy Tune: White Tie and Tails.** Joined by the Kings and an onstage sixteen-piece band, he'll be performing a repertoire that includes Irving Berlin, the Beatles, and Chopin. It's been a while—his last show here was ten years ago—but Tune couldn't be happier to be back. "No one last year was in the mood to sing and dance and kick up their heels," he says, "which makes this the most important season of our time." (See "Off Broadway: Previews and Openings.")


ON TAP: Tommy Tune, the happy hoofer, is back in New York.

Now Playing

Aida
Disney's epic musical about the love affair between a Nubian princess and the Egyptian prince who captures her, with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Eye-popping sets and costumes by Bob Crowley. $25–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Palace Theatre, 1554 Broadway, at 47th St. (212-307-4747).

Beauty and the Beast
The family-friendly musical adaptation of Disney's film is no *Lion King,* but it's still entertaining kids by the busload. Belle is now Jamie-Lynn Sigler of *The Sopranos*. $25–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. Additional performance 11/27 at 2. • Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 205 W. 46th St. (212-307-4747).

★ Cabaret
Sam Mendes's 1998 Tony-winning adaptation of the musical based on Christopher Isherwood's *Berlin Stories* is dark in spirit and light on clothes. The decadent world of Weimar-era Berlin cabaret is re-created, appropriately enough, in what was once the notorious nightclub Studio 54. Raul Esparza and Molly Ringwald star. $45–$95. Mon., Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 2. Additional performance 11/27 at 8. • Studio 54, 254 W. 54th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Chicago
This lurid musical about the celebrity potential of female murderers won six Tonys in 1996. In this stylish production, choreographed by Ann Reinking (after Bob Fosse) and directed by Walter Bobbie, female inmates in a Jazz Age Chicago prison vie for the attention of a flashy lawyer (now Billy Zane of *Titanic*) and the tabloid press. $20–$90. Mon., Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 2. • Shubert, 225 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Flower Drum Song
Despite David Henry Hwang's p.c. new book, there are still plenty of clichés in this updated production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about a Chinese nightclub in San Francisco. But the razzmatazz remains, too, and most of the songs, even wrenched out of context, are not without charm. (Simon; 10/28/02) $65–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. No matinee performance on 11/27. • Virginia Theatre, 245 W. 52nd St. (212-239-6200).

★ 42nd Street
The hit 1933 movie about the chorus girl who becomes a star was made into a Broadway musical in 1980 and ran for eight years. The show is back, and it's an absolute knockout. *42nd Street* is on 42nd Street, God is in his Heaven, and all is right with the world. Now Kate Levering is back, too, as the lead. (Simon; 5/14/01) $25–$100. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Ford Center for the Performing Arts, 213 W. 42nd St. (212-307-4100).

★ Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune
Edie Falco (*The Sopranos*) and Stanley Tucci (*Road to Perdition*) headline this revival of Terrence McNally's tender play about a waitress and a short-order cook in New York who spend the night together. As directed by Joe Mantello, this slice of life sprinkled with all sorts of spicy toppings proves surprisingly nourishing. (Simon; 8/19/02) $35–$80. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/29. • Belasco Theatre, 111 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?
Sally Field and Bill Irwin star in Edward Albee's dense Tony-winning drama about a successful architect who, at the pinnacle of his career, must confess to his wife and son the awful secret of his affair with, yes, a goat. (Simon; 3/25/02) $25–$80. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • John Golden Theatre, 252 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

The Graduate
Lorraine Bracco (*The Sopranos*) has taken over for Kathleen Turner as Mrs. Robinson in Terry Johnson's disastrous stage adaptation of the 1967 film. (Simon; 4/15/02) $21–$81. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Plymouth Theatre, 236 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Hairspray
This exuberant new musical based on John Waters's 1988 film follows the efforts of plump teen Tracy Turnblad (Marissa Jaret Winokur) to win over the hunk and the world as a dancer and integrationist on *The Corny Collins Show.* So many numbers bring down the house, it's a wonder the Neil Simon Theatre is still standing after the final curtain. (Gerard; 8/26/02) $65–$100. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Neil Simon Theatre, 250 W. 52nd St. (212-307-4100).

★ Hollywood Arms
Hal Prince directs this thoroughly endearing new play by Carrie Hamilton and Carol Burnett based on Burnett's memoir about growing up at the foot of the Hollywood Hills. (Simon; 11/11/02) $20–$80.

Ground Rules Except where noted, Broadway shows begin at 8 and are dark Monday. Capsule reviews are drawn from columns by John Simon and Jeremy Gerard, where noted; others are by Ada Calhoun. Stars (★) indicate our editors' and critics' recommendations. Wallet-watchers should keep in mind the TKTS booths, where discount tickets are available (for that day's performance only) to many Broadway and Off Broadway shows. TKTS booths are at Broadway and 47th Street and in South Street Seaport at the corner of Front and John Streets; call 212-768-1818 for more info. Involved in a production and want to submit details for a possible listing? Call 212-508-0740.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HOWARD SCHATZ.

Tues.–Sat at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Cort Theater, 138 W. 48th St. (212-239-6200).

Into the Woods
Vanessa Williams stars in Stephen Sondheim's mythic Tony winner, a journey through the fairy-tale forests of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, and others. Despite music and lyrics by Sondheim, book and direction by James Lapine, this production is a deluge of smirking camp. (Simon; 5/13/02) $40–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Broadhurst Theater, 235 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Les Misérables
An audacious button-pusher based on the Victor Hugo novel, with over-the-top songs like "Do You Hear the People Sing?" and "I Dreamed a Dream." The show, which is in its seventeenth year, is due to close in March. $20–$85. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. • Imperial Theater, 249 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

★ The Lion King
Based on the popular Disney movie, this inventive production, which won a slew of 1998 Tony awards, is wrought with joyful mastery by experimental director Julie Taymor. $25–$100. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. Additional performance 11/26 at 8. • New Amsterdam Theater, 214 W. 42nd St. (212-307-4747).

Mamma Mia!
This contrived musical about a young bride-to-be and her single mother is scored with 22 shimmery disco tunes by Abba's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus. (Simon; 10/29/01) $55–$98.75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Winter Garden Theater, 1634 Broadway, at 50th St. (212-563-5544).

★ Metamorphoses
Writer-director Mary Zimmerman and her company use a 27-foot-long pool of water to tell Ovid's classic tales of Midas, Narcissus, and more. The myths have power despite some overly cute modern touches. (Simon; 10/29/01) $35–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Circle in the Square Theatre, 1633 Broadway, at 50th St. (212-239-6200).

Movin' Out
A new musical conceived, choreographed, and directed by Twyla Tharp and based on songs by Billy Joel. The dancers are on target and the second act is at moments quite good, but overall, the show fails to tell a story. (Simon; 10/28/02) $40–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Richard Rodgers Theatre, 226 W. 46th St. (212-307-4100).

★ Oklahoma!
Choreographer Susan Stroman (*The Producers*) and director Trevor Nunn (*Les Miz*) bring their acclaimed revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic Stateside. A smash hit in London, something seems to have been lost in transit, but the songs, sets, and choreography should be enough to make *Oklahoma!* okay with you. (Simon; 4/8/02) $20–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, and Sun. at 3. • Gershwin Theatre, 222 W. 51st St. (212-307-4100).

The Phantom of the Opera
Andrew Lloyd Webber's campy version of the macabre tale, given an opulent spin by director Hal Prince, just passed *A Chorus Line* as the third longest-running show in Broadway history. And that famous chandelier keeps on falling. $20–$90. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. • Majestic Theater, 247 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

★ The Producers
There's no ignoring the success of Mel Brooks's musical, directed and choreographed by Susan Stroman. Based on Brooks's Oscar-winning 1968 film about Broadway showmen who set out to produce the "sure-fire flop" *Springtime for Hitler*, the show set records at the 2001 Tony Awards and, despite the departure of its original stars, remains one of the hottest tickets in town. $30–$100. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • St. James Theatre, 246 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Proof
Anne Heche dazzles as a young woman mourning the death of her mentally unstable mathematician father. Not making things any easier are her type-A sister, a nosy graduate student (Neil Patrick Harris), and a groundbreaking proof of uncertain provenance that appears in her late father's office. Rewarded with a Pulitzer and several Tonys. $20–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Walter Kerr Theatre, 219 W. 48th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Prune Danish
Jackie Mason is a phenomenon, a standout among stand-up comics as he combines the borscht with the black belt in his sixth one-man show. (Simon; 11/11/02) $40–$75. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/1. • Royale, 242 W. 45th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Rent
This Pulitzer-winning musical about early-nineties squatter culture has the best pop-music score Broadway has heard in 30 years. Jonathan Larson's songs, his heart, and his soul have lost none of their power in the six years this show has been on Broadway. 'N Sync's Joey Fatone now stars. (Gerard; 9/16/02) $35–$95. Mon., Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. • Nederlander Theater, 208 W. 41st St. (212-307-4100).

Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on Broadway
Russell Simmons conceived this night of performance poetry, which features a D.J. and nine slam poets. $25–$65. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 5 and 9, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Longacre Theatre, 220 W. 48th St. (212-239-6200).

Say Goodnight Gracie
Before he can join Gracie in the afterlife, George Burns (Frank Gorshin) must give one final performance. The show combines a nostalgic sashay down memory lane with a greatest-hits jokebook, but you'll be glad Burns finally passes the test and makes it to heaven. (Simon; 10/28/02) $60–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Helen Hayes Theatre, 240 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Thoroughly Modern Millie
Sutton Foster turns gawkiness into something gazelle-like as Millie, a young woman who comes to New York to make her fortune. This winner of multiple Tonys is a mind-teasing and heart-tickling delight. (Simon; 4/29/02) $60–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Marquis Theatre, 1535 Broadway, at 45th St. (212-307-4100).

Urinetown
A water shortage forces city-dwellers to comply with a pay-per-pee system in this parody of, or perhaps ode to, the modern musical. *Urinetown* rose from the downtown Fringe Festival to become a Tony winner and Broadway smash, but it lacks internal logic. (Simon; 9/24/01) $35–$95. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun at 3. • Henry Miller, 124 W. 43rd St. (212-239-6200).

Off Broadway

Previews and Openings

Adult Entertainment
Danny Aiello and Jeannie Berlin star in this new Elaine May comedy about six members of the porn industry who decide to go freelance. $25–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 12/9 opening. • Variety Arts Theatre, 110 Third Ave. (212-239-6200).

Blue/Orange
U.S. premiere of Joe Penhall's drama exploring mental illness and racism. $45. Tues.–Sun. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. In previews for an 11/24 opening. • Atlantic Theater Company, 336 W. 20th St. (212-239-6200).

Boston Marriage
A new drawing-room comedy (!) from David Mamet, starring Martha Plimpton and Kate Burton. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. In previews for an 11/20 opening. • Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St. (212-239-6200).

Christmas With the Crawfords
Trim the tree with wire hangers and celebrate the holidays with the Crawfords. Joan will be played by Joey Arias and Christina by Jason Scott. $40. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 5, Sun. at 7. In previews starting 11/22 for an 11/26 opening. Through 12/28. • Producers Club Theatre II, 358 W. 44th St. (212-206-1515).

City Center Encores!
The beloved *Encores!* series celebrates its tenth anniversary with a bash featuring a long list of the best performers of years past, including Krisitn Chenoweth, Tyne Taly, and Melissa Errico. $25–$85. Mon. and Sun. at 7:30, Sun. at 2. 11/24 and 11/25. • City Center, 130 W. 55th St. (212-581-1212).

Crowns
A new play with gospel music based on Michael Cunningham and Craig Marberry's collection of oral histories and photographs of black women in their church hats. $38–$55. Tues., Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Wed. at 7, Sun. at 3. In previews for a 12/3 opening. Through 1/5. • Second Stage Theatre, 307 W. 43rd. St. (212-246-4422).

The Fourth Sister
Sisters in modern-day Moscow hunger for Hollywood in this U.S. premiere of Janusz Glowacki's new play. $15–$45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. In previews for an 11/20 opening. • Vineyard Theatre, 108 E. 15th St. (212-353-0303).

Gone Home
This drama about a writer having problems with his family marks the New York debut of playwright John Corwin. $45. Tues.–Sun. at 7:30, Sat. and Sun. at 3. In previews starting 11/25 for a 12/17 opening. Through 1/26. • Manhattan Theatre Club, Stage II, 131 W. 55th St. (212-581-1212).

The Mercy Seat
Neil LaBute's new two-person drama, set on September 12, 2001, stars Sigourney Weaver and Liev Schreiber as an older woman–younger man couple at a crossroads in their relationship. $50. Schedule varies; call for details. In previews starting 11/26 for a 12/18 opening. Through 1/12. (See box.) • Acorn Theatre, 410 W. 42nd St. (212-279-4200).

The General From America
Corin Redgrave stars as Benedict Arnold in Richard Nelson's 1996 play about treason, a co-production with Houston's Alley Theatre. $55. Tues.–Sat. at 7:30, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3 and 7. In previews for an 11/21 opening. • Lucille Lortel Theatre, 121 Christopher St. (212-239-6200).

Tommy Tune: White Tie and Tails
Beloved nine-time Tony winner Tommy Tune, backed up by the Manhattan Rhythm Kings and a sixteen-member band, performs a program of song-and-dance numbers set to the music of, among others, Cole Porter and the Beatles. $75. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3 and 7. In previews starting 11/26 for a 12/18 opening. (See box.) • Little Shubert Theatre, 422 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

What Didn't Happen
Playwrights Horizons presents the world premiere of a play by Christopher Shinn about a writer in turmoil. Starring Chris Noth ("Mr. Big" from *Sex in the City*) and Suzanne Cryer (the "yadda yadda yadda" girl from *Seinfeld*). $50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3, Sun. at 7:30. In previews for a 12/10 opening. Through 12/22. • Duke on 42nd Street, 229 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

Now Playing

Almost Live From the Betty Ford Clinic
Celebrity addictions are shamelessly ridiculed by Michael West (*Forbidden Broadway*). $20. Thursdays at 8. • Douglas Fairbanks Theatre, 432 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

Betty Rules
The girls of Betty, a politically active band that's been around since the eighties, star as themselves in this self-congratulatory stroll down memory lane. Directed by Michael Greif (*Rent*). $29.90–$44.90. Tues–Thurs. at 8, Fri. and Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 5. • Zipper Theatre, 336 W. 37th St. (212-239-6200).

Bewilderness
Comedian Bill Bailey's brand of cynicism did well last year at the Westbeth; now he's brought his one-man show uptown. $40–$45. Wed.–Fri. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 7, Sat. at 10. Through 3/30. • 47th Street Theatre, 304 W. 47th St. (212-239-6200).

Big Al
Bryan Goluboff's new play about a young screenwriter who tries to write a film for his idol, Al Pacino. $35. Mon.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 3. • Arclight Theatre, 152 W. 71st St. (212-239-6200).

Birdy's Bachelorette Party
Celebrate the upcoming wedding of a sweet legal sec-

NEWYORKMETRO.COM
Find a review. For John Simon's theater reviews, go to nymetro.com/archive/simon.

Tragedy With a Tryst

Sigourney Weaver's recent work has had two themes: 9/11 (*The Guys*) and younger men (*Tadpole*). Her new project, Neil LaBute's The Mercy Seat, incorporates both, as she and a young lover (Liev Schreiber) grapple with their relationship on September 12. A devoted fan of the playwright best known for *The Shape of Things,* Weaver says, "Neil's writing is so beautiful, even though it's very blunt stuff. Like in one speech I'm talking about the doggy position, but there's a real music to it." But it's about the attacks—surely it's only for the emotionally masochistic? On the contrary, says Weaver, "if anyone's sick of hearing about 9/11, this is probably the play to go to." The title refers to a religious question the show poses, which Weaver describes as "Are you able to give mercy when it's denied you?" But in truth, she adds, "the play's about a relationship that's wickedly funny with—*whew!*—some heavy furniture being moved." (See "Off Broadway: Previews and Openings.")

THE MORNING AFTER: Sigourney Weaver and Liev Schreiber.

retary to her construction-worker boyfriend with wacky antics including a lingerie show, karaoke, and a sex-toy demonstration. $60 includes postshow admission to the club and party favors. Fri. at 9, Sat. at 8. • Culture Club, 179 Varick St. (212-352-3101).

Blessing in Disguise
Seven magnificent men fight for the right to perform. $55. Mon.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 5 and 8. • Times Square Theatre, 675 Eighth Ave., at 43rd St. (212-206-1515).

Bliss
Rattlestick Productions continues its eighth season with Ben Bettenbender's play about murder and misunderstanding. $37.50. Wed.–Mon. at 8. Through 12/22. • Rattlestick Theatre, 224 Waverly Pl. (212-206-1515).

Blue Man Group: Tubes
You've seen the Intel commercials; now see the popular painted men in real life. Props include toilet paper and cereal. $55–$65. Tues.–Thurs. at 8; Fri. at 7 and 10; Sat. at 4, 7, and 10; Sun. at 2, 5, and 8. • Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St. (212-254-4370).

★ Book of Days
Signature Theatre continues its Lanford Wilson season with Wilson's 1998 play about murder and community theater in an insular Southern town. Wilson's Pirandellian playfulness and Brechtian distancing, new for him, effectively convey the two-way traffic between art and life. (Simon; 11/18/02) $50. Tues.–Sat at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/8. • Signature Theatre's Peter Norton Space, 555 W. 42nd St. (212-244-7529).

Burn This
As of 11/20, Elisabeth Shue and Peter Sarsgaard star in this flaccid, dated Signature Theatre Company production of Lanford Wilson's 1987 play about four New Yorkers grieving for a dead dancer. (Gerard; 9/30/02) $65. Tues.–Sat. at 8. Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • Union Square Theater, 100 E. 17th St. (212-307-4100).

★ De La Guarda
A raucous show that's part carnival, part rock concert, and almost entirely airborne. Expect audience participation and mist. $20–$50. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Fri. at 10:30, Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 7. • Daryl Roth Theatre, 20 Union Square East, at 15th St. (212-239-6200).

Debbie Does Dallas
What's more contemptible than a clean dirty joke, especially when inflated into a full-length musical? Sherie Rene Scott stars in this jejune, witless travesty of the well-known porn movie. (Simon; 11/18/02) $30–$35. Mon.–Fri. at 8, Fri. at 10:30, Sat. at 7 and 10. • Jane Street Theatre, 113 Jane St. (212-239-6200).

Defending the Caveman
The longest-running solo show in Broadway history, a comedy about the battle of the sexes, returns to New York after an international tour. $39.50–$49.50. Wed.–Sun. at 8, Sat. at 2 and 5, Sun. at 3. Through 11/24. • Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd St. (212-307-4100).

The Donkey Show
A loose disco-musical adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream,* with even looser morals. Cable sex icon Robin Byrd hosts on Wednesdays. $35–$45. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Fri. and Sat. at 10:30. • El Flamingo, 547 W. 21st St. (212-307-4100).

★ The Exonerated
Whatever you may think of the death penalty, this play, based on interviews with innocent men and women freed from death row, should make you think—and feel—some more. Under Bob Balaban's direction, the ten actors (including Richard Dreyfuss and Sara Gilbert) are unerring. (Simon; 10/28/02) $55. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 5 and 9, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Bleecker Street Theatre, 45 Bleecker St. (212-307-4100).

Far Away
Frances McDormand stars in the U.S. premiere of British playwright Caryl Churchill's cockamamie play full of discourse about a world in which nations, animals, plants, and objects wage fathomless war in absurd alliances and incomprehensible enmity. (Simon; 11/25/02) $55. Tues.–Thurs. and Sat. at 8, Fri. at 7 and 9, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Through 12/22. • New York Theatre Workshop, 79 E. 4th St. (212-239-6200).

★ Forbidden Broadway 20th Anniversary Celebration
Current targets of this long-running spoof of musicals past and present include: "saucy Fosse" choreography, the "tongue-spraining" lyrical stylings of Steven Sondheim, and "all the Nazi musicals" (*Cabaret*, *The Producers*, and *The Sound of Music*). $49.50–$57. Mon., Tues., Fri., and Sat. at 8:15, Sun. at 3:30 and 7:30, Wed. and Sat. at 2:30. • Douglas Fairbanks Theatre, 432 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

The Fourth Wall
Not ready for prime time: Sandy Duncan and Charles Kimbrough star in A. R. Gurney's fatuous and smug play about George W. and suburbia. (Simon; 11/25/02) $48. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2:30, Sun. at 3. Through 12/1. • Primary Stages, 354 W. 45th St. (212-333-4052).

Ghosts
Amy Irving stars in and Daniel Fish directs the first major New York production of Ibsen's play about the Alving family's terrible secret in close to twenty years. The show uses Lanford Wilson's idiomatic and pungent translation, but otherwise has little merit. (Simon; 11/25/02) $35–$50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/8. • Classic Stage Company, 136 E. 13th St. (212-677-4210).

Goy Vey!
Richard Chang stars as a Yiddish-speaking Chinese boy who comes to New York to search for his American father. $35. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Through 11/24. • West End Theatre, 263 W. 86th St. (212-279-4200).

The Guys
Peggy Lipton and Dan Lauria now star in Anne Nelson's play about a fire captain who lost many of his men and an editor who helps him write the eulogies. $55. Tues.–Fri. at 7. Through 11/22. • Flea Theater, 41 White St., between Church and Broadway (212-206-1515).

Harlem Song
George C. Wolfe's new musical traces the music and culture of Harlem from the twenties to the present, and despite re-creating moments like Ella Fitzgerald's winning performance at Amateur Night at the Apollo, there is no real passion behind this production. (Simon; 9/19/02) $20–$55. Sat. at 8, Sun. and Mon. at 7, Sat. at 2 and 5, Sun. at 3. • Apollo Theatre, 253 W. 125th St. (212-307-7171).

Henry V
St. Crispin's Day comes early this year with a Jean Cocteau Repertory production of the Shakespeare drama. Schedule varies; call for details. Through 1/5. • Jean Cocteau Repertory, 330 Bowery (212-677-0060).

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change
They're here. They're straight. Get used to it. A musical revue about heterosexual love. $49.50–$60. Mon., Tues., Fri., and Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2:30, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. • Westside Theatre, 407 W. 43rd St. (212-239-6200).

The Importance of Being Earnest
Learn from Wilde's masterpiece why being earnest is usually a terrible idea. $40. Schedule varies; call for details. Through 1/2. • Jean Cocteau Repertory, 330 Bowery (212-677-0060).

Jolson & Company
This new musical about Al Jolson, the legendary "Jazz Singer," follows his epic career (1915–1950) through vaudeville, Broadway, radio, and talkies. $65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2:30, Sun. at 3. • Century Center for the Performing Arts, 111 E. 15th St. (212-239-6200).

A Last Dance for Sybil
Obie and Emmy winner Ruby Dee (*Checkmates*, *The Glass Menagerie*) stars in this new play from Ossie Davis (*Purlie Victorious*), a drama about power and economic freedom. $20–$40. Wed.–Fri. at 7:30, Sat. at 2 and 8, Sun. at 3. In previews for an 11/21 opening. Through 12/15. • St. Clement's Theatre, 423 W. 46th St. (212-279-4200).

Late Night Catechism
Another interactive comedy (this one set in Catholic school) from the producers of *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*. $40. Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. • St. Luke's Church, 308 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

Little Ham: A Harlem Jazzical
Con man Little Ham defends Harlem from the mob in this simpleminded musical based on Langston Hughes's 1936 farce of the same name. (Simon; 10/14/02) $65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. • John Houseman Theatre, 450 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

Love, Janis
A bio-musical based on the book *Love, Janis* by Joplin's sister Laura and performed by a trio of actresses. $45–$100. Mon, Wed.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10:30, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Through 1/5. • Village Theater, 158 Bleecker St. (212-307-4100).

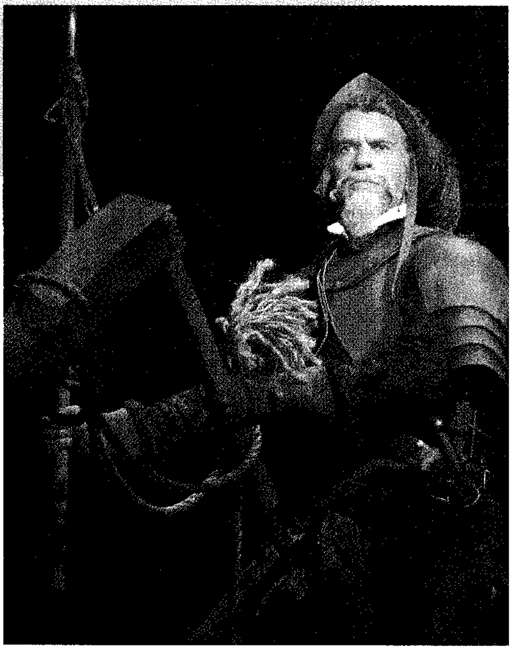
A Man of No Importance
Mediocre musical based on the mediocre 1994 film about a repressed Dublin bus driver who moonlights with an amateur theater company. The story abounds in bittersweet wistfulness while also trying to be a lusty comedy. (Simon; 7/21/02) $65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Wed.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CAROL ROSEGG

The Windmills of His Mind

"During *Kiss Me Kate,* I started thinking, *What will my next show be?*" recalls heartthrob Brian Stokes Mitchell, who stars as the windmill-chasing optimist Don Quixote in a revival of the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha*, which starts previews November 23 at the Martin Beck. "I was seeing a lot of people becoming cynical—you turn on the TV and you see horrific things. We've lost touch with what's really important in life, the ideals that the knights had and Quixote had—virtue, nobility, love for humanity. You have to have a reason to revive a show, and that's the reason for this one." (See: "Broadway: Previews and Openings.")

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER: Brian Stokes Mitchell as Quixote.



and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/29. • Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater, 150 W. 65th St. (212-239-6200).

The Mayor's Limo
From the producer of *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding* comes this new comedy about a homeless man arrested for urinating on the mayor's limousine. $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Through 12/29. • Kraine Theatre, 85 E. 4th St. (212-353-3101).

Menopause the Musical
A parody about "the change," set in Bloomingdale's. $49.50. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Wed., Thurs., Sat., and Sun. at 3. • Playhouse 91, 316 E. 91st St. (212-307-4100).

My Old Lady
A man inherits a Paris apartment, but when he arrives, he finds his father has already installed two tenants, an old lady and her daughter. Written by Israel Horovitz and directed by David Esbjornson, the story is civilized and amusing, but quite simply *incroyable*. (Simon; 10/14/02) $60. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Promenade Theatre, 2162 Broadway, at 76th St. (212-239-6200).

Naked Boys Singing
Just like a regular musical revue, but without pants. $35–$65. Mon., Wed.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 3 and 7. Additional performance 11/26 at 8. • Actor's Playhouse, 100 Seventh Ave. So. (212-239-6200).

Nathan the Wise
Timeliness, anyone? Richard Sewell adapts Gotthold Lessing's eighteenth-century German drama about the struggle between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Jerusalem during the Crusades. $30–$40. Tues. at 7, Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2. Through 11/24. • Pearl Theatre Company, 80 St. Mark's Pl. (212-598-9802).

Poor Beast in the Rain
The second part of Billy Roche's *Wexford Trilogy*, in which a onetime hell-raiser returns to his hometown. First performed at the Bush Theatre in London in 1989, the show is making its U.S. debut. $35–$45. Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3. • Irish Arts Center, 553 W. 51st St. (212-206-1515).

The Prince and the Pauper
A new musical based on the Twain novel, with music and lyrics by Neil Berg, additional lyrics by Bernie Garzia, and book by Garzia and Ray Roderick. $40–$65. Wed. and Thurs. at 2 and 7:30, Fri. at 8, Sat. at 2 and 8, Sun. at 3. Returns from a fall recess on 11/27. • Lambs Theatre, 130 W. 44th St. (212-239-6200).

Puppetry of the Penis
An oddly innocent lesson in "the ancient Australian art of genital origami." $29.90–$39.90. Tues.–Thurs. at 8, Fri. and Sat. at 7 and 9:30, Sun. at 7. • John Houseman Theatre, 450 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200).

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular
Santa, the Rockettes, the Wooden Soldiers, and the Living Nativity have been whipping audiences into a Christmas frenzy since 1933. $36–$90. Schedule varies; call for details. Through 1/5. • Radio City Music Hall, 1260 Sixth Ave., at 50th St. (212-307-1000).

Salome: The Reading
Lust, revenge, the Bible, and star power. Al Pacino, Marisa Tomei, and Dianne Wiest participate in this dramatic reading of Oscar Wilde's once-banned drama, with original musical accompaniment. $50. Schedule varies; call for details. Through 12/22. • St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St., Dumbo, Brooklyn (866-468-7619).

She Stoops to Conquer
This British class comedy wowed the 1773 Covent Garden crowd. Now Miss Hardcastle and Mr. Marlow come to St. Mark's Place. $30–$40. Tues. at 7, Thurs.–Sat. at 8, Wed., Sat., and Sun. at 2. Extended through 11/23. • Pearl Theatre, 80 St. Mark's Pl. (212-598-9802).

Something Old, Something New
The famed virtuoso and cantor Dudu Fisher brings traditional Jewish standards and Broadway favorites to the Lower East Side. Mon.–Thurs., Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Wed. and Sun. at 2. $45–$60. Through 12/8. • Mazer Theatre, 197 E. Broadway (212-239-6200).

Stomp
This boisterous riot of found-object percussion has been a-clang since 1994. $35–$60. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10:30, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Orpheum, 126 Second Ave. (212-477-2477).

The Sweepers
Urban Stages brings back its spring 2002 hit, a drama about Italian-American women in Boston at the end of WWII. $35. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 3. Through 12/1. • Urban Stages, 259 W. 30th St. (212-206-1515).

Take Me Out
This new play by Richard Greenberg about a gay baseball player who comes out would make a great sitcom, but it doesn't actually have anything interesting to say about coming out, intolerance, or, for that matter, baseball. (Gerard; 9/15/02) $45. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. Extended through 11/24. • Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Ave. (212-239-6200).

Teddy Tonight!
Laurence Luckinbill stars in this one-man show as former president Theodore Roosevelt. $35. Wed.–Sat. at 7:30, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. Recently moved up from Off-Off Broadway, through 11/24. • Abingdon Mainstage Theatre, 312 W. 36th St. (212-206-1515).

Temporary Help
The brand-new Revelation Theater stages David Wiltse's psychosexual thriller. $37.50. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Through 1/12. • Women's Project Theatre, 424 W. 55th St. (212-239-6200).

Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding
A wedding and reception, with Italian buffet, champagne, and wedding cake. Wonderfully tacky—and, with more than 4,000 performances, it's lasted longer than a lot of real marriages. $75–$80. Thurs.–Sun. at 7, Sun. at 2. • St. Luke's Church, 308 W. 46th St., and Vinnie Black's Coliseum, Hotel Edison, 221 W. 46th St. (212-239-6200).

Tuesdays With Morrie
The stage adaptation of Mitch Albom's warm and fuzzy best-seller receives its New York premiere under the direction of David Esbjornson (*The Goat*). $45–$65. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 3. • Minetta Lane Theatre, 18 Minetta Ln. (212-307-4100).

★ The Vagina Monologues
Eve Ensler's oral history of a body part stitches together testimony from women from all over the world, from those who have experienced terrible abuse to those who have invented cute nicknames for what lies "down there." Performed by a rotating cast of three actresses. $55. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. at 5, Sun. at 3 and 7:30. • Westside Theatre, 407 W. 43rd St. (212-239-6200).

The Water Coolers
A new musical revue about corporate America from Thomas Michael Allen (creator of *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*). $50. Tues.–Fri. at 8, Sat. at 7 and 10, Sun. at 3 and 7. • Dillons, 245 W. 54th St. (212-239-6200).

Yellowman
This finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize, a meditation on race relations in South Carolina, is an antitheatrical piece of bludgeoning repetition. (Simon; 11/18/02) $60. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2:30, Sun. at 7. Through 12/15. • Manhattan Theatre Club Stage I, 131 W. 55th St. (212-581-1212).

★ Yentl
The treasured Folksbiene, America's only (and best) professional Yiddish theater, charmingly presents the Yiddish world premiere of Isaac Bashevis Singer's racy tale. Simultaneous English translation will be provided via headsets. $45. Tues.–Thurs. at 7, Sat. at 8, Sun. at 5:30, Wed. and Sun. at 2. Through 12/29. • PCMH Theatre, 344 W. 36th St. (212-307-4100).

Off-Off Broadway

All in the Timing
David Ives's hilarious and fast-paced satire is presented by Theatre in the Schools, Inc. $15. Fri.–Sun. at 7:30. Through 12/1. • Here, 145 Sixth Ave. (212-647-0202).

Blood Links
Chinese-Australian performance artist William Yang. $20. Wed. and Sat. at 8. Through 11/23. • Asia Society, 725 Park Ave. (212-288-6400).

Body Blows
Political—and cute!—performance artist Tim Miller, on being queer in America. $17. Thurs.–Sun. at 8:30. Through 12/1. • P.S. 122, 150 First Ave. (212-477-5288).

Harlem Duet
Oni Faida Lampley (*The Dark Kalamazoo*) stars in this new play, set in 1860, 1928, and contemporary Harlem. $15. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3. Through 12/1. • Blue Heron Arts Center, 123 E. 24th St. (212-206-1515).

The Phoenician Women
Multimedia production of the Euripides tragedy. $15. Mon., Wed.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 3. Through 11/30. • Ohio Theatre, 66 Wooster St. (212-206-1515).

Spectacle of Spectacles: The Clairvoyant Cabaret
Musical variety show about mystical vaudeville. $15. Thurs.–Sat. at 10, Sun. at 5:30. Through 12/1. • The Club at LaMaMa, Etc. 74A E. 4th St. (212-475-7710).

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAN MARCUS.

Art

Edited by Edith Newhall

Galleries

Solos

Madison Avenue and Vicinity

Oscar Bluemner
Preparatory drawings in colored pencil, watercolors, and graphite and dating from 1916 to 1932, many of which have not been previously exhibited; through 12/7. • Graham, 1014 Madison Ave. (212-535-5767).

Anthony Caro
Life-size sculptures of figures on vaulting horses from the British artist's new series, "The Barbarians"; through 12/20. • Mitchell-Innes & Nash, 1018 Madison Ave. (212-744-7400).

★ Joseph Cornell
Rarely exhibited collages, box constructions, objects, and toys; through 12/20. • Stone, 113 E. 90th St. (212-987-1655).

★ Peter Doig
Works on paper based on the artist's personal snapshots, popular films, art history, and advertising; through 1/19/03. • Werner, 4 E. 77th St. (212-988-1623).

Duncan Hannah
Recent paintings of steamships and male figures; through 12/21. • Graham, 1014 Madison Ave. (212-535-5767).

Wolf Kahn
A retrospective of the artist's graphic works, including etchings, carborundum, lithographs, and silkscreens; through 12/14. • Neptune, 50 E. 72nd St. (212-628-0501).

★ Paul Thek and Edwin Klein
Document, a collaborative three-dimensional "album" of photographs, drawings, cards, and objects created in 1969 by the former, an American artist (1933–1988), and the latter, a Dutch designer and photographer, for installations at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm; through 12/31. • Gat, 1100 Madison Ave. (212-327-0441).

★ Andy Warhol
More than 30 paintings, watercolors, and drawings based on the theme of the hammer and sickle that were first exhibited in 1977; through 12/7. • C & M, 45 E. 78th St. (212-861-0020).

Andy Warhol/Jeff Koons
Paintings of flowers by the former and sculptures of flowers by the latter; through 12/21. • Gagosian, 980 Madison Ave. (212-744-2313).

Edwin Lord Weeks
Paintings of scenes in India by the American Orientalist painter (1849–1903); through 12/12. • Jordan, 958 Madison Ave. (212-570-9500).

57th Street Area

Josh Agle
Paintings inspired by the commercial art and advertising of the fifties and early sixties; through 12/20. • McGrath, 20 W. 57th St. (212-956-3366).

Adele Alsop
Large, boldly colored *plein-air* landscape paintings and smaller still lifes that capture both the grandeur and the intimacy of the artist's surroundings in Utah; through 12/21. • Alexander, 41 E. 57th St. (212-755-2828).

Jennifer Bartlett
New paintings; through 12/28. • Artemis • Greenberg Van Doren, 730 Fifth Ave. (212-445-0444).

★ Janet Fish
A survey of paintings made between 1968 and 2002 by this artist known for her light-filled, vibrantly colored still lifes of fruit and transparent objects; through 12/14. • DC Moore, 724 Fifth Ave. (212-247-2111).

Alan Gussow
Lushly colored oil-pastel paintings that represent the late artist's experience of the natural environment; through 12/20. • Babcock, 724 Fifth Ave. (212-767-1852).

Catherine Howe/Mary Hambleton
Portraits of beautiful women that draw on old-master paintings/Abstract paintings. Through 12/14. • Littlejohn, 41 E. 57th St. (212-980-2323).

★ William Kentridge
Zeno Writing, a new film by the South African artist based on Italo Svevo's 1923 novel, *Confessions of Zeno*, and a series of related drawings; through 1/4/03. • Goodman, 24 W. 57th St. (212-977-7160).

Pierre Klossowski
Large-scale pencil drawings of erotic, enigmatic scenes by the older brother (1905–2001) of the painter Balthus; through 12/7. • Zabriskie, 41 E. 57th St. (212-752-1223).

Luis Macias
A video, photographs, and sculpture installation that explore the way we express ourselves through the decoration of our environments; through 12/2. • Smith, 501 Lexington Ave. (212-832-8831).

Tom Otterness
See No Evil, a new monumental three-figure sculpture; through 12/31. • Marlborough, 40 W. 57th St. (212-541-4900).

Louis Stone
Abstract paintings dating from 1938 to 1942 that reflect the American artist's studies with Hans Hoffman in Germany and Andre L'hote in France, and his interest in jazz; through 1/11/03. • Rosenfeld, 24 W. 57th St. (212-247-0082).

Soho and Tribeca

★ Willie Birch
Life-size paintings of the artist's New Orleans neighborhood; through 12/21. • Ross, 568 Broadway (212-343-2161).

Brian Clarke
Stained-glass panels; through 12/13. • Shafrazi, 119 Wooster St. (212-274-9300).

Don Eddy
New multi-panel paintings on the themes of nature, perception, and life's mysteries; through 12/4. • Hoffman, 429 W. Broadway (212-966-6676).

★ Alex Hay
The first show of the Pop artist's paintings and sculpture since 1969; through 12/21. • Freeman, 560 Broadway (212-966-5154).

Jessica Higgins
Poet Walk (The Diamond Forest), a large-scale intermedia project involving texts suspended from branches; through 12/10. • Fung, 537 Broadway (212-334-6242).

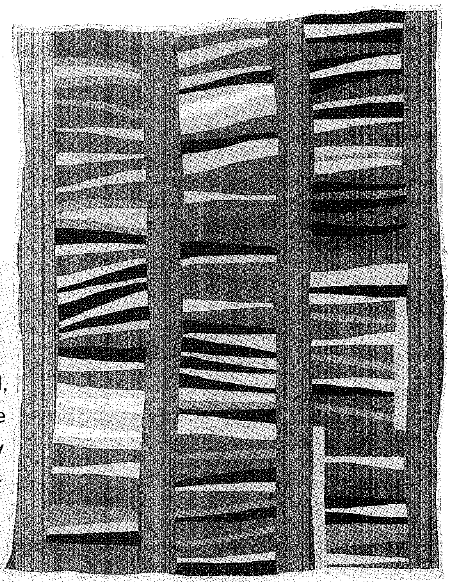
Chris Johanson
An installation made up of a variety of works in various mediums that addresses the negative force of money, religion, looking out for the needy, the power of the sun, and other issues; through 12/21. • Deitch, 76 Grand St. (212-343-7300).

★ Jutta Koether and Steven Parrino
A collaborative Dada-influenced environment of "failed paintings" in which a series of noise performances will take place (11/19 at 8, 12/6 at 8, 12/12 at 8, 12/17 at 8, and 1/4 at 8); through 1/4/03. • Swiss Institute, 495 Broadway (212-925-2035).

Ground Rules Galleries are generally open Tuesday through Saturday, from between 10 and 11 to between 5 and 6. Stars (★) indicate our editors' recommendations.

On View

Local Color



HOW TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT: A cotton quilt of bars and string-pieced columns by Jessie T. "Bootnie" Pettway, circa 1955.

The dot on the map known as Gee's Bend, Alabama, has never been an accessible place. Southwest of Selma, the community sits on a peninsula in the Alabama River. Ferries haven't stopped there since the early sixties, and the only road, all fifteen miles of it, wasn't paved until 1967. But isolation has had at least one positive effect on the residents of Gee's Bend, most of whom are descendants of slaves who worked on the Gee—and later, Pettway—plantation. Since the twenties, the community's female population has been piecing together some of America's most boldly inventive quilts, 70 of which are now being exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art. **The Quilts of Gee's Bend**, though functional, are art in every other sense, with compositions and dramatic scale shifts that echo contemporaneous paintings by Malevich, Mondrian, and Stella. Each of the 46 African-American women represented in this show also has a distinctly individual style. The question of how Gee's Bend came to be the repository of so much talent may never be answered: The community has always been intensely religious and its residents fiercely loyal to one another, but its artists say they make their quilts purely for pleasure, and it shows. (November 21 through March 2; see "Museums.") E.N.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PITKIN/PITKIN STUDIO; COURTESY TINWOOD BOOKS.

vier Mosset
cent wall size, multipanel monochrome paintings executed in an orange similar to the Pantone color used for the gallery's stationery; through 12/7. • Brownstone, 39 Wooster St. (212-334-3455).

★ Rosie Lee Tompkins
Brilliantly colored, geometrically patterned quilts by a Northern Californian African-American quiltmaker who was born in 1936 and grew up helping her mother "piece" quilts in rural Arkansas; through 12/28. • Blum, 99 Wooster St. (212-343-0441).

Chelsea

★ Siah Armajani
Recent architectural sculptures; through 1/11/03. • Senior & Shopmaker, 21 E. 26th St. (212-213-6767).

Charles Belle
Expressive, large-scale portraits of flowers; through 12/7. • Cadé, 210 Eleventh Ave. (212-255-7404).

Melvin Charney
Photo-based works and paintings that show the evacuations of urban content from the agglomerations where most people now live; through 12/7. • Taylor, 535 W. 22nd St. (646-230-0992).

★ Chuck Close
New paintings and daguerreotypes; through 1/11/03. • PaceWildenstein and Pace/MacGill, 534 W. 25th St. (212-421-3292).

George Condo
New portraits that subvert traditional portrait painting; through 12/21. • Luhring Augustine, 531 W. 24th St. (212-206-9100).

Karin Davie
Paintings of billowing forms that bring to mind such carnivalesque images as striped tents, clown makeup, and twisted balloons; through 12/21. • Boone, 541 W. 24th St. (212-752-2929).

Carol Diehl/Herman Cherry
Paintings made up of dense patterns of words, numbers, and symbols/Paintings on paper made on Martha's Vineyard in 1956. Through 12/7. • Snyder, 601 W. 29th St. (212-872-1077).

★ Inka Essenhigh
Paintings that depict narratives whose figures and their actions are distorted beyond recognition; through 12/20. • 303, 525 W. 22nd St. (212-255-1121).

★ Teresita Fernández
Three large-scale sculptural installations; through 11/29. • Lehmann Maupin, 540 W. 26th St. (212-255-2923).

Duncan Hannah
Paintings of young female nudes, dating from the past ten years; through 12/21. • JG Contemporary, 505 W. 28th St. (212-564-7662).

★ Thomas Hirschhorn
An installation transforming the gallery into a series of artificial cave rooms containing books, furniture, and other paraphernalia; through 12/21. • Gladstone, 515 W. 24th St. (212-206-9300).

Jerald Ieans
Abstract paintings that combine organic and geometric forms; through 12/14. • Schoormans, 508 W. 26th St. (212-243-3159).

John Isaacs
Photographs, a video, an installation, and sculptures that juxtapose unlikely phenomena; through 12/21. • Feigen, 535 W. 20th St. (212-929-0500).

Mike Kelley
Amorphously shaped reliefs, mosaiclike paintings, and sculptures from a series exploring "repressed memory syndrome"; through 12/7. • Metro Pictures, 519 W. 24th St. (212-206-7100).

★ Anselm Kiefer
New paintings and sculpture from the "Merkaba" series, inspired by Kabbalist literature dealing with the afterlife; through 12/14. • Gagosian, 555 W. 24th St. (212-741-1111).

★ Jeff Koons
New paintings and a sculpture, *Dolphin*, the first of a new series in which the artist returns to the use of ready-mades; through 12/20. • Sonnabend, 5536 W. 22nd St. (212-627-1018).

★ Guillermo Kuitca/Wolfgang Laib
New paintings from three series, including a five-panel work, *The Ring*, based on Wagner's magnum opus/*Rice House*, a small house made of roughly cut marble and surrounded by mounds of rice. Through 12/15. • Sperone Westwater, 415 W. 13th St. (212-999-7337).

Wolfgang Laib
Drawings and photographs; through 1/11/03. • Tonkonow, 535 W. 22nd St. (212-255-8450).

Euan MacDonald
Video projections, sculpture, drawings, and photographs that play with cinematic conventions, by a Los Angeles–based Scottish artist; through 12/22. • Cohan, 138 Tenth Ave. (212-206-8710).

★ Bruce Nauman
A selection of iconic neon works, sculptures, and drawings dating from the late sixties through the eighties; through 12/14. • Van de Weghe, 521 W. 23rd St. (212-929-6633).

★ Pat Passlof
Recent abstract paintings; through 12/21. • Harris, 529 W. 20th St. (212-0463-9666).

★ Ed Ruscha
Prints from the seventies to the present; through 12/23. • Kempner, 501 W. 23rd St. (212-206-6872).

★ David Salle
New paintings; through 11/30. • Lehmann Maupin, 540 W. 26th St. (212-255-2923).

★ Raven Schlossberg
New collage-paintings on such themes as childhood sexuality, romance, and infidelity; through 12/21. • McKenzie, 511 W. 25th St. (212-989-5467).

★ Andrew Spence
Intensely colored abstract paintings that refer to halos, spotlights, and dislocation; through 12/7. • Thorp, 210 Eleventh Ave. (212-691-6565).

★ Dan Torop/Chris Hammerlein
Photographs that offer glimpses of the world from the perspective of a wandering photographer/Drawings of a cast of characters in open-ended narratives. Through 12/21. • Eller, 526-30 W. 25th St. (212-206-6411).

Other

★ Robert Cumming
A survey of the artist's works from the past 30 years, focusing on his drawings, photographs, prints, and sculptures whose subjects reference architecture; through 12/22. • Dorsky, 11-03 45th Ave., Long Island City (718-937-6317), Thurs.-Mon. 11-6.

Group Shows

Madison Avenue and Vicinity

★ Roth Horowitz
"The Complete Run: Highlights From the Chaplick Collection," artists books, multiples, and ephemera from the seventies, by Andre, Boetti, Broodthaers, On Kawara, Ruscha, Warhol, others; through 12/24. • 160a E. 70th St. (212-717-9067).

Skarstedt
Works by Fischli and Weiss, Schütte, Trockel; through 12/21. • 1018 Madison Ave. (212-737-2060).

York
"Great Planes: Planar Surfaces in American Cubism and Abstraction," Precisionist and Cubist paintings and sculpture made between 1910 and 1960 by Bruce, Gordin, Marin, Sheeler; through 12/21. • 21 E. 65th St. (212-772-9155).

57th Street Area

★ Archives of American Art
"The André Emmerich Gallery: A Documentary Portrait," photographs, catalogues, invitations, and other materials that the former gallery owner has given to the archives, as well as works on paper by the artists he represented—Anthony Caro, Helen Frankenthaler, David Hockney, and others—from his personal collection; through 1/10/03. • 1285 Sixth Ave. (202-357-2700), Mon.-Fri. 9:30-5.

Krugier
Prints by Not Vital; paintings by Michel Haas; sculpture by Yves Dana; through 1/18/03. • 41 E. 57th St. (212-755-7288).

Mathes
A selection of Abstract Expressionist and Pop collages, by Chamberlain, Dine, Kline, Reinhardt, Rivers, Wesselman, others; through 12/21. • 41 E. 57th St. (212-752-5135).

Spanierman
"The Spirit of America: American Art From 1829 to 1970." Works by Bellows, Bierstadt, Chase, Hassam, Heade, Metcalf, Ryder, others; through 2/15/83. • 445 E. 58th St. (212-832-0208).

Soho and Tribeca

★ Art in General
"Art in General on Canal," commissioned public art projects on and around Canal Street by Buckingham, Gardiner, Haye, Schimert, The PARbros, others; through 2/1/03 (call gallery for locations and tour information); "With(in)," works by artists from Thailand and New York who explore contemplative space; through 12/21. • 79 Walker St. (212-219-0473).

★ Artists Space
"Painting as Paradox," works by 60 emerging painters who are grappling with various legacies of painting, among them Baracz, Greenfield-Sanders, Odita, Tremblay, Yamaoka; through 12/21. • Artists Space, 38 Greene St. (212-226-3970).

Cavin-Morris
"Frida's World," photographs of Frida Kahlo by Lola Alvarez Bravo, Imogen Cunningham, Fritz Henle, Leo Matiz, and others, displayed alongside period Mexican jewelry, Tepehuana costumes, and ex-votos and retablos; through 1/4/03 • 560 Broadway (212-226-3768).

Chelsea

★ Algus
"Ten Realists," works by Blair, Daze, Hendricks, Johnson, Kardon, Ruyter, others; through 12/21. • 511 W. 25th St. (212-242-6242).

★ Cohan
The first exhibition at the gallery's new space, of works by Long, Paine, Wallin; through 12/21. • 533 W. 26th St. (212-755-7171).

★ White Columns
"Regarding Gloria," an exhibit of works by emerging artists that examines the influence of the feminist legacy; "White Rooms," installations of environments by Ron Amstutz and sculpture and wall paintings by Steve Robinson; through 12/1. • 320 W. 13th St. (212-924-4212).

Other

World Financial Center
"New Views: World Financial Center," site-specific public artworks produced by nine artists during a five-month residency at the World Financial Center; through 1/17/03. • WFC, 220 Vesey St. (212-580-9548), 10-7 daily.

Photography

★ Banning
Photomontage posters, books, and photographs created in Paris, Berlin, and Moscow in the thirties, by Carlu, Heartfield, Klutsis, Moholy-Nagy, Rodchenko, others; through 12/14. • 64 N. Moore St. (212-966-4144).

Adam Beinash
Portraits and still lifes; through 12/12. • Sterilemind, 230 Mulberry St. (212-941-6767).

★ Chan Chao
Large-scale, simply posed color portraits made between 1996 and 1998 in rebel camps along the borders of Burma; through 11/30. (See box.) • Richardson, 535 W. 22nd St. (646-230-9610).

Eleanor Parke Custis/A. Aubrey Bodine
Photographs by two American pictorialists; through 12/21. • 210 Eleventh Ave. (212-989-7600).

Arthur Wesley Dow
Cyanotypes, and platinum, silver, and gum-bichromate prints of abstracted landscapes spanning 1890 to

1912; through 12/14. • Hirschl & Adler, 21 E. 70th St. (212-535-8810).

Sandi Fellman
Photographs of insects and their shadows; through 1/4/03. • Houk, 745 Fifth Ave. (212-750-7070).

Rena Bass Forman
Romantic sepia-toned landscapes; through 1/11/03. • Winston Wächter Mayer, 39 E. 78th St. (212-327-2526).

Lauren Greenfield/Judith Joy Ross
Photographs of young women shopping in Soho, swimming at weight-loss camps, attending parties, and involved in other activities that demonstrate the degree to which their bodies have become a public project/Portraits of adolescent girls that focus on their individuality. Through 11/30. • Pace/MacGill, 32 E. 57th St. (212-759-7999).

★ Peter Hujar
Portraits of the late photographer's friends—John Waters, Diana Vreeland, Edwin Denby, Divine, and others—juxtaposed with decomposing forms shot in catacombs, from the 1976 book *Portraits in Life and Death*; through 12/21. • Marks, 523 W. 24th St. (212-243-0200).

★ International Center of Photography
"Winogrand: 1964." Photographs shot by the photographer (1928–1984) during a road trip across America that show the country in transition, mired in the struggles of the civil-rights movement and poised at the beginning of the Vietnam War; through 12/1. • "Step Right This Way: The Photographs of Edward J. Kelty." Photographs of early-twentieth-century circuses and circus performers by a professional wedding and event photographer based in midtown Manhattan; through 12/1. • "Aftermath: Reflections on the Anniversary of September 11." Photographs taken by women's-rights activists in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; photographs recording the aftereffects of the collapse of the World Trade towers by Jeff Mermelstein, and digital photographs recovered from the camera of Bill Biggart, the only photojournalist to be killed on September 11; through 12/1. • 1133 Sixth Ave. (212-857-0000), Tues.-Thurs. 10-5, Fri. 10-8 (5-8 P.M. voluntary contribution), Sat. and Sun. 10-6; $9, $6 students and seniors.

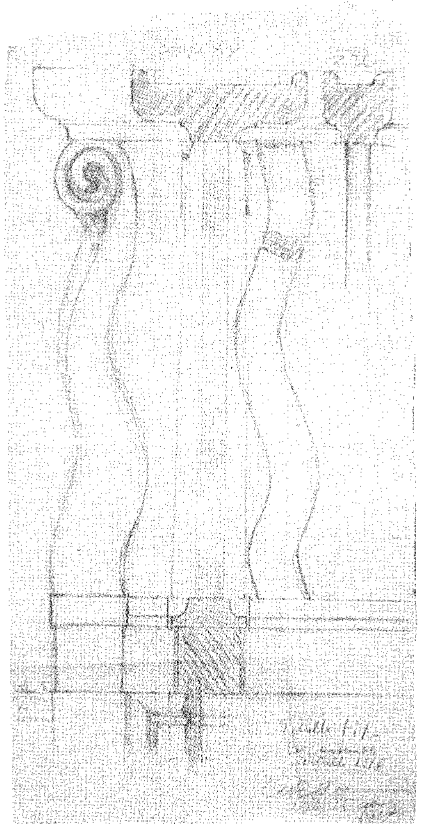
★ Abelardo Morell
Photographs of books and objects, and camera obscura images of London and of a paper mill in Massachusetts; through 12/7. • Benrubi, 52 E. 76th St. (212-517-3766).

★ John O'Reilly
Photomontages from the past two years; through 11/30. • Saul, 535 W. 22nd St. (212-627-2410).

Retrospective

Building a Career

The brilliant and audacious Swiss architect Le Corbusier (1887–1965), born Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, was notoriously mum on the subject of his early work. But it's all revealed at **Le Corbusier Before Le Corbusier: Applied Arts, Architecture, Painting, and Photography, 1907–1922**, which opens this week at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture. As a young man he had planned to become a painter, and Corbu's wide-ranging interests are revealed here through his Léger-influenced canvases, drawings, early bentwood furniture, travel photographs, and models of his architectural commissions for his hometown of La Chaux-de-Fonds. (November 22–February 23; see "Museums.")



CURVES AHEAD: Le Corbusier's drawing of a divan for Marcel Levaillant's apartment, 1917.

★ Gabriel Orozco
Photographs taken on a trip last July to Mali that concentrate on objects, phenomena, erosion, materiality, and the organic; through 1/4/03. • Goodman, 24 W. 57th St. (212-977-7160).

★ Philip Perkis
A retrospective of the photographer's wry black-and-white prints of everyday sights in locations around the world; through 12/21. • Klotz/Sirmon, 511 W. 25th St. (212-741-4764).

★ Sylvia Plachy
A retrospective of photojournalistic works dating from 1965 to the present; through 11/30. • Bateman, 560 Broadway (212-925-7951).

★ Michael Spano/Lewis Hine
A 20-year survey of the New York photographer's large-scale, black-and white street portraits/Vintage prints originally from the archives of the National Child Labor Committee, depicting children at work. Through 12/21. • Miller, 20 W. 57th St. (212-397-3930).

Staley-Wise
Photographs of the 2002 Winter Olympics by Burnett, Currie, Holder, Metzner, Seamans, others; through 11/30. • 560 Broadway (212-966-6223).

Beat Streuli
Video works shot on city streets around the world; through 12/21. • Guy, 453 W. 17th St. (212-463-7372).

Kathryn Szoka
Diaphanous, rural landscapes shot along Long Island's East End; through 12/21. • Rice, 325 W. 11th St. (212-366-6660).

Tom Wood
"Looking for Love," a series of photographs taken between 1982 and 1985 in the Chelsea Reach Nightclub in New Brighton, North England's first disco pub; through 12/21. • Erben, 516 W. 20th St. (212-645-8701).

Museums

American Folk Art Museum
★ "American Anthem: Masterworks From the American Folk Art Museum." More than 250 objects from the museum's permanent collection, including paintings, sculpture, quilts, furniture, and pottery; through 1/5/03. • 45 W. 53rd St. (212-265-1040), Tues.-Sun. 10-6 (Fri. to 8); $9, $5 students and seniors.

American Museum of Natural History
★ "Einstein." The most comprehensive exhibition ever mounted on the life and theories of the scientist; through 8/31/03. • ★ "The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter." An annual exhibition, first presented in 1998, of 400 to 500 live tropical butterflies from Central, South, and North America housed in a walk-in vivarium that approximates the butterflies' natural habitat; through 5/26/03. • Central Park West at 79th St. (212-769-5100); daily 10-5:45 (on Fri., Rose Center is open to 8:45 for daily space shows); $12 suggested contribution, $9 students and seniors, $7 children.

Asia Society and Museum
★ "The Native Born: Contemporary Aboriginal Art From Ramingining, Australia." A traveling exhibition of Aboriginal bark paintings, weavings, and wood sculptures organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; through 1/5/03. • "China Refigured: The Art of Ah Xian With Selections From the Rockefeller Collection." Sculptures in porcelain, lacquer, and cloisonné by the Chinese Australian artist; through 2/9/03. • "From Court to Caravan: Chinese Tomb Sculptures From the Collection of Anthony M. Solomon"; through 2/9/03. • 725 Park Ave., at 70th St. (212-288-6400), Tues.-Sun. 11-6 (Fri. 11-9, free admission 6-9); $7, $5 students and seniors.

Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts
★ "Le Corbusier Before Le Corbusier: Applied Arts, Architecture, Painting, and Photography." Works made between 1907 and 1922 that show the architect, then a painter, gravitating toward architecture and design; 11/22–2/23/03. (See box.) • 18 W. 86th St. (212-501-3000), Tues.-Sun. 11-5 (Thurs. to 8); $3, $2 students and seniors.

Brooklyn Museum of Art
★ "Exposed: The Victorian Nude." The first exhibit to survey the full range of representations of the nude during the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901, including works by Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Edward Burne-Jones, Frederic Leighton, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and others; through 1/5/03. • ★ "The Adventures of Hamza." Approximately 70 of the finest surviving paintings from the *Hamzanama*, a fourteen-volume manuscript portraying the exploits of Amir Hamza, an uncle of the Prophet Muhammad, that was created by Persian and Indian artists and commissioned by the Indian Mughal emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605) when he was still a teenager; through 1/26/03. • ★ "Judy Chicago: *The Dinner Party.*" The feminist sculptor's best-known work, given to the museum by the Elizabeth A. Sackler Foundation, an installation consisting of a dinner table and 39 place settings representing 39 successful women, executed between 1974 and 1979 by some 400 women working as ceramicists, needleworkers, and china painters; through 2/9/03. • "BAM! BAM! BAM! Catching the Next Wave for 20 Years." A multichannel video and sound installation celebrating the twentieth year of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's avant-garde Next Wave festival; through 1/12/03. • 200 Eastern Pkwy., Brooklyn (718-638-5000), Wed.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 11-6 (till 11 P.M. on the first Sat. of every month), Sun. 11-6; $6, $3 students and seniors.

Chelsea Art Museum
"Samadhi: The Contemplation of Space. Works by twelve artists whose works suggest spatial openness, among them Allain, Barry, Kuwayama, McLaughlin, Mitchell, and Motherwell; through 3/15/03. • "Shots in the Dark." A survey of crime photography; through 3/15/03. • 556 W. 22nd St. (212-255-0719), Wed.-Sun. noon-6; $5, $2 students and seniors.

Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution
★ "New Hotels for Global Nomads." The first major exhibition to explore the hotel as architecture, interior design, and cultural phenomenon; through 3/2/03. • 2 E. 91st St. (212-849-8300), Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. noon-6, Tues. 10-9 (5-9, free admission); $8, $5 students and seniors.

Dia Center for the Arts
"Rosemarie Trockel: Spleen." A new suite of video projections that explore the meanings of "spleen"

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FONDATION LE CORBUSIER, PARIS.

through the artist's feminist perspective; through 6/15/03. ★ "Jo Baer: The Minimalist Years, 1960–1975." The artist's first solo museum exhibition in the United States since 1975, of hard-edge minimal paintings and drawings made during the years she lived in New York City; through 6/15/03. • Jorge Pardo and Gerhard Richter: *Refraction*." The former's design of Dia's ground floor is interwoven with the latter's paintings; through 6/15/03. • "Diana Thater: Knots + Surfaces." A large-scale multi-projection video installation; through 3/29/03. • 548 W. 22nd St. (212-989-5566), Wed.–Sun. noon–6; $6, $3 students and seniors.

Drawing Center

★"Abstract Tendencies." Abstract works on paper by Bandau, Dudek, Jensen, McShane, Pibal, Song, others; through 12/20. • 35 Wooster St. (212-219-2166), Tues.–Fri. 10–6, Sat. 11–6; donation suggested.

Frick Collection

★"Masterpieces of European Painting From the Toledo Museum of Art." Twelve important works on loan from the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, by Piero di Cosimo, Jacopo Bassano, El Greco, Thomas Gainsborough, Camille Pissarro, and others; through 1/5/03. • ★ "Poussin, Claude, and Their World: Seventeenth-Century French Drawings From the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris." Drawings by Nicolas Poussin and Claude Lorrain, as well as by lesser-known artists such as Sebastian Bourdon, Charles Le Brun, Eustache Le Sueur, and Simon Vouet; through 12/1. • 1 E. 70th St. (212-288-0700); Tues.–Sat. 10–6 (Fri. to 8:45), Sun. 1–6; $12 adults, $8 seniors, $5 students; children under 10 not admitted.

Grey Art Gallery

★ "Between Word and Image: Modern Iranian Visual Culture." Paintings, sculpture, revolutionary posters, and black-and-white photographs made by Iranian artists in the sixties and seventies; through 12/7. • 100 Washington Square East (212-998-6780), Tues., Thurs., Fri. 11–6, Wed. 11–8, Sat. 11–5; $2.50 suggested donation.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

★ "Moving Pictures." Photographs and video works from the seventies to the present, drawn primarily from the museum's collection, by Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci, Stan Douglas, Andreas Gursky, Bruce Nauman, and others; through 1/12/03. • ★ "Bill Viola: Going Forth by Day." A new five-part, projected digital image cycle that is experienced architecturally and explores themes of human existence; through 1/12/03. • 1071 Fifth Ave., at 88th St. (212-423-3500), Sat.–Wed. 10–5:45, Fri. 10–8 (Fri. 6–8, pay what you wish), closed Thurs.; $12, $8 students and seniors.

Japan Society

★ "Kazari: Decoration and Display in Japan, Fifteenth–Nineteenth Centuries." A survey of Japanese art that explores the concept and practice of *kazari*, the art of arranging objects and paintings and the principles governing their display, including works gathered from collections around the world; through 12/31. • 333 E. 47th St. (212-832-1155), Tues.–Fri. 11–6, Sat. and Sun. 11–5; $5, $3 students and seniors.

Jewish Museum

★ "Adolph Gottlieb." Paintings spanning the Abstract Expressionist's career from 1934 to 1973 and charting his evolution from his early representational easel paintings to his monumental abstract pictures; through 3/2/03. • ★ "The City of K.: Franz Kafka and Prague." Photographs, manuscripts, and books set in a series of multimedia environments that place the German-Jewish writer in the context of the city in which he grew up; through 1/5/03. • 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd St. (212-423-3200), Mon., Tues., Wed. 11–5:45; Thurs. 11–8 (Thurs. after 5, pay what you wish), Fri. 11–3, Sun. 10–5:45; $8, $5.50 students and seniors.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

★ "Théodore Chassériau (1819–1856): The Unknown Romantic." The first retrospective of paintings and works on paper since 1933 by this French artist, a precocious disciple of Ingres; through 1/5/03. ★ "Richard Avedon: Portraits." A retrospective of the preeminent photographer's portraiture, including images of well-known writers, artists, actors, military leaders, and politicians; a series of portraits of his father in the years just prior to his death; and his portrayals of westerners from the series "The American West"; through 1/5. • ★ "The Legacy of Ghengis Khan: Courtly Art and Culture in Western Asia, 1256–1353." More than 200 objects, including illustrated manuscripts, decorative arts, and architectural decoration; through 2/16/03. • ★ "Blithe Spirit: The Windsor Set." A collection of French couture donated to the museum in 1946 that includes Chanels, Lanvins, Vionnets, and Schiaparellis, and captures the elegance of thirties café society; through 2/9/03. ★ "The Prints of Vija Celmins." Images of ocean surfaces, desert floors, and star-filled night skies that eschew conventional composition; through 12/29. • "A Very Private Collection: Janice H. Levin's Impressionist Pictures." Some 35 works that graced the late collector's Fifth Avenue apartment, by Bonnard, Monet, Morisot, Pissarro, Renoir, and others; through 2/9/03. • "French Nineteenth-Century Drawings in the Robert Lehman Collection"; through 2/9/02. • "Genesis: Ideas of Origin in African Sculpture." Forty *ci wara* antelope headdresses of the Bamana people, and other masterpieces from across sub-Saharan Africa inspired by distinct myths of origin; through 4/13/03. • "Arts of the Spanish Americas, 1550–1850: Works From the Museum's Collection." A sampling of religious and secular artworks made in colonial Latin America; through 4/6/03. • "The Written Image: Japanese Calligraphy and Painting From the Sylvan Barnet and William Burto Collection." A collection tracing the evolution of Japanese calligraphy from the Nara period (710–784) through the nineteenth century; through 3/2/03. • 1000 Fifth Ave., at 82nd St. (212-879-5500); Tues.–Thurs. and Sun. 9:30–5:30, Fri. and Sat. 9:30–9; $10 contribution, $5 students and seniors. The Cloisters, Fort Tryon Park (212-923-3700); Tues.–Sun. 9:30–4:45 (closes at 5:15 between April and September); $12, $7 students and seniors.

MoMA QNS

★ "Drawing Now: Eight Propositions." Approximately 250 drawings by a diverse group of 26 young artists from Europe, Asia, and the Americas; through 1/6/03. • "The Changing of the Avant-Garde: Visionary Architectural Drawings From the Howard Gilman Collection." 173 architectural drawings of group of 200 that were given to the museum by the Howard Gilman Foundation, by Eisenman, Hejduk, Koolhaas, Maki, Sottsass, others; through 1/6/03. • 33rd St. at Queens Blvd., Long Island City (212-708-9400), Thurs.–Mon. 10–5 (Fri. to 7:45); $12, $8.50 students and seniors.

Morgan Library

★ "The Thaw Collection: Master Drawings and Oil Sketches, Acquisitions Since 1994." Works collected by Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw since 1994 that they have promised to the Morgan Library, by Carpaccio, Degas, Morandi, Redon, Seurat, and others; through 1/12. • "Stuart Davis: Art and Theory, 1920–31." Works on paper, the artist's earliest known diary, and a sketchbook; through 12/15. • "Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*." A special holiday presentation of Dickens's original manuscript; 11/26–1/12/03. • "The Morgan Library–Rienzo Piano Project." Models and plans for the expansion and renovation of the Morgan Library, which will begin on December 4; through 5/4/03. • 29 E. 36th St. (212-685-0008), Tues.–Thurs. 10:30–5, Fri. 10:30–8, Sat. 10:30–6, Sun. noon–6; $8, $6 students and seniors.

★ El Museo del Barrio

"The (S) Files 2002: The Selected Files." The museum's biennial showcase of works by New York–based Latino and Latin American artists; through 2/16/03. • 1230 Fifth Ave., at 104th St. (212-831-7272), Wed.–Sun. 11–5; $5, $3 students and seniors.

Museum for African Art

"Facing the Mask." More than 70 masks from across the continent; through 3/2/03. • "Recent Acquisitions: Selections From the Permanent Collection"; through 3/2/03. • 36-01 43rd Ave. (718-784-7700), Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10–5, Sat. and Sun. 11–6; $5, $2.50 students, seniors, and children.

Museum of Contemporary Arts and Design

"From the Kilns of Denmark: Contemporary Danish Ceramics." A survey of ceramics produced in Denmark since 1982; through 1/5/02. • "Elegant Fantasy: The Jewelry of Arline Fisch." A survey of the jewelry artist's collars and body ornaments, which incorporate such textile techniques as weaving and crochet; through 1/5/03. • 40 W. 53rd St. (212-956-3535), daily 10–6, Thurs. 10–8 (pay what you wish 6–8); $7.50, $4 students and seniors.

Museum of the City of New York

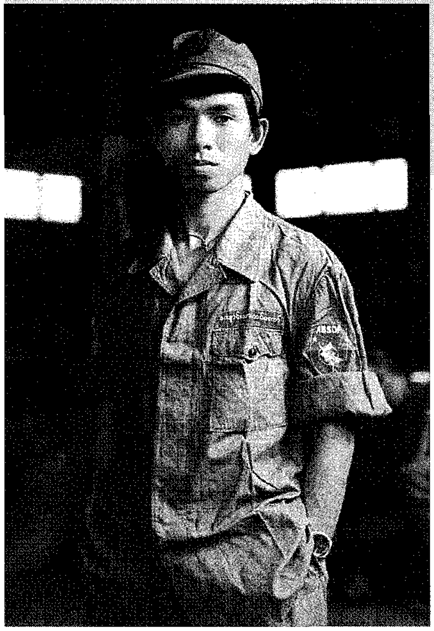
"Horn & Hardart's Automat." Photographs, ephemera, and artifacts—including original Horn & Hardart furniture and vending machines—demonstrating the chain's important place in New York's culture; through 3/16. • "The Croton Aqueduct: Illustrations by Fayette B. Tower." Highlights from a recent gift to the museum of ink drawings, prints, and letters by Fayette B. Tower (1817–1857), an assistant engineer on the Croton Aqueduct project; through 4/6/03. • ★ "Richard Rodgers' Broadway." A centennial celebration of the legendary composer's birth, featuring photographs, sheet music, personal items, and ephemera from the

Photography

The Years of Living Dangerously

Going back to Myanmar wasn't easy for **Chan Chao**, who emigrated from that formerly democratic country (known then as Burma) to the United States with his family in 1978. Having been denied reentry twice, he was able to make his way to rebel camps along the border of Burma with the help of pro-democracy insurgents living in Thailand. Thus began a two-year project (1996 through 1998) in which Chao would treat the camps as his studio and take dignified, August Sander–style portraits of the freedom fighters he admired: Burma's exiled politicians, ethnic rebels, refugees, and student activists. (Through November 30; see "Photography.")

RISKY BUSINESS: Chan Chao's *Tin Nin, May 1997.*



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF YANCEY RICHARDSON GALLERY.

museum's Theater Collection; through 1/5/03. • 1220 Fifth Ave., at 103rd St. (212-534-1672), Wed.-Sat. 10–5, Sun. 1–5; $5 suggested contribution, $4 students and seniors.

Museum of the Fashion Institute of Technology

☆ "Scaasi: Exuberant Fashion." A selection of 70 evening gowns and cocktail dresses by the designer known for his use of rich, opulently adorned fabrics; through 1/4/03. • ☆ "Femme Fatale: Fashion and Visual Culture in Fin-de-Siècle Paris." The first exhibition to explore the sexual politics of women's fashion in turn-of-the-century Paris, including fashions by Doucet, Pacquin, Worth, and others; through 1/25/03. • Seventh Ave. at 27th St. (212-217-7642), Tues.-Fri. noon–8, Sat. 10–5; free.

National Academy of Design

★ "Color & Ecstasy: The Art of Hyman Bloom." A retrospective of paintings and drawings by a Latvian-born artist who had his first retrospective at the Whitney Museum in 1954 and whose work reflected his preoccupations with light, color, the macabre, and spirituality; through 12/29. • ★ "Against the Modern: Dagnan-Bouveret and the Transformation of the Academic Tradition." An exhibition presented by the Dahesh Museum of Art, of paintings of daily life in the French provinces and Paris by a student of Jean-Léon Gérôme; through 12/8. • 1083 Fifth Ave., at 89th St. (212-369-4880), Wed. and Thurs. noon–5, Fri. , Sat. and Sun. 11-6; $8; $4.50 students and seniors.

National Museum of the American Indian

"The New Old World: Antilles—Living Beyond the Myth." Photographs of the Taino and Carib peoples of the Caribbean by Marisol Villanueva; through 3/21/03. • ★ "Great Masters of Mexican Folk Art From the Collection of Fomento Cultural Banamex." Works by contemporary master craft artists from all 31 states of the Mexican Republic; through 3/15/03. • 1 Bowling Green (212-514-3700), 10–5 daily, Thurs. 10–8; free.

Neue Galerie

★ "Dagobert Peche and the Wiener Werkstätte." The first comprehensive exhibit of drawings, furniture, jewelry, ceramics, fabrics, and wallpaper by the eclectic Viennese designer (1887–1923); through 2/10/03. • 1048 Fifth Ave., at 86th St. (212-628-6200), Fri. 11-9, Sat., Sun., Mon. 11-6; $10, $7 students and seniors.

New Museum of Contemporary Art

★ "Carroll Dunham." The first major museum survey of paintings by the American artist whose combination of biomorphism, cartooning, and abstraction have played a pivotal role in synthesizing abstraction with representation; through 2/2/03. • 583 Broadway, near Prince St. (212-219-1222), Tue.-Sun. noon–6, Thurs. noon–8 ($3 admission Thurs. 6–8); $6, $3 students and seniors.

New York Public Library

★ "New York Eats Out." Menus, photographs, prints, magazine covers, and other items chronicling the history of New York dining from the collection of the library and on loan from the private holdings of restaurateurs, chefs, and others, selected by the New York *Times* food critic William Grimes; through 3/1. • ★ "Urban Neighbors: Images of New York City Wildlife." Historic and contemporary illustrated books, photographs, engravings, maps, original art, and other works from the library's collections depicting fauna from the five boroughs; through 2/1/03. • Fifth Ave. and 42nd St. (212-869-8089), Tues. and Wed. 11-7:30, Thurs.-Sat. 10–6; free.

New-York Historical Society

★ "Portrait of the Art World: A Century of *ARTnews* Photographs." A celebration of the centenary of America's oldest art magazine through a selection of 100 of its most memorable portraits of artists; through 1/5/03. • ★ "Seat of Empire: Napoleon's Armchair from Malmaison to Manhattan." A multifaceted exploration of Napoleon Bonaparte's armchair from the *Salle du Conseil* (Council Room) at Malmaison, featuring the armchair and objects related to its history—furniture, paintings, sculpture, prints, and books—from the Society and collections around the world; through 1/12/03. • ★ "The Games We Played: American Board and Table Games From the Liman Collection." More than 150 examples of board games dating from the end of the Civil War through the first decade of the twentieth century; through 1/5/03. • 2 W. 77th St. (212-873-3400); Tues.-Sun. 11–6; $5, $3 seniors and children.

P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center

☆ "Video Acts: Single-Channel Works From the Collections of Pamela and Richard Kramlich and New Art Trust." Performance-based artworks in video format by Ambramovic and Ulay, Vito Acconci, Gilbert and George, Jonas, Nauman, Paik, Viola, Wegman, others; through 4/30/03. • ☆ "Building Structures." Artworks made from wood, cardboard, plastic, plywood, plaster, and other building materials, by Cape, Guyton, McBride, Schnitger, Tse, Weiner, others; through 1/31/03. • "Arnold Mesches: FBI Files." Collages and paintings about the artist's own experiences during the Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the McCarthy "Red Scare" era; through 2/28/03. • 22-25 Jackson Ave., at 46th Ave., Long Island City (718-784-2084), Thurs.-Mon. noon–6; $5 suggested donation.

Studio Museum in Harlem

★ "Gary Simmons." A survey of the artist's work from the past seven years, including erasure drawings, photographs, sculptures, and videos; through 1/5/03. • 144 W. 125th St. (212-864-4500), Wed., Thurs., Sat., and Sun. noon–6, Fri. noon–8; $5, $3 students and seniors.

Whitney Museum of American Art

★ "The Quilts of Gee's Bend." Approximately 70 quilts made between the twenties and the nineties by the women of Gee's Bend, a small town in rural Alabama; 11/21–3/2/03. (See box.) • ★"An American Legacy, A Gift." Eighty-seven works of postwar American art that were given to the museum by fifteen members of its board of trustees, including works by Close, De Feo, Frankenthaler, Johns, Kelly, Kline, Newman, Pollock, Rauschenberg, Rothko, Ryman, Twombly, and Warhol; through 1/26/03. • ★"Lorna Simpson: *31*." A film installation that tracks a month in the life of an unknown woman in a grid of 31 small video screens as she moves through her apartment, the street, the office, and various recreational spaces; through 1/26/03. "Lorna Simpson: Cameos and Appearances." New photographs from an ongoing series of silhouetted and obscured portraits; through 1/26/03. • ★ "Sanctuaries: The Last Works of John Hejduk." Drawings and models by the visionary American architect who was the dean of Cooper Union for 25 years and who explored an allegorical, carnivalesque mode of architecture; through 1/5/03. • "Tom Burr: *Deep Purple*." A re-imagining of Richard Serra's *Tilted Arc* that calls into question the past, present, and future of public art; through 1/5/03. • "Helen Mirra: *declining interval lands*." An installation relating to the decline of the American elm tree by the Chicago-based visual and sound artist; through 12/8. • 945 Madison Ave., at 75th St. (212-570-3676); Tues.-Thurs., Sat., Sun. 11–6, Fri. 1–9 (pay what you wish every Fri. 6–9); $12, $9.50 students, seniors, and groups of fifteen or more.

Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris

★ "Outer City, Inner Space: Teresita Fernandez, Stephen Hendee, and Esther Partegas." New site-specific sculptural works by three artists who explore architectural and conceptual space; through 1/3/03. • "Haluk Akakçe: Illusion of the First Time." An ethereal environment of illusional wall paintings, abstract video projections, and dimensional sound elements; through 1/10/03. • 120 Park Ave., at 42nd St. (917-663-2550), Mon.-Fri. 11–6 (Thurs. till 7:30); free.

Auctions

Christie's

11/20 at 7 and 11/21 at 10: "Latin American Art." On view from 11/16. 11/26 at 10 and 2: "Roger Prigent's Malmaison Collections: Furniture, Objects d'Art, and Decorations." On view from 11/21. • 20 Rockefeller Plaza (212-636-2000).

Sotheby's

11/20 at 10:15: "Latin American Art." On view from 11/15. 11/21 at 10:15 and 2: "19th-Century Furniture, Paintings & Decorative Works of Art." On view from 11/16. 11/22 at 2: "Collectibles." On view from 11/16. • 1334 York Ave., at 72nd St. (212-606-7000).

Swann Galleries

11/21 at 10:30 and 2:30: "Contemporary Art and Contemporary Prints From the June Wayne Collection." On view from 11/17. • 104 E. 25th St. (212-254-4710).

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Restaurants

Edited by Robin Raisfeld
& Rob Patronite

Opening

Let's Go Slumming

Its name evokes rusting fire escapes and bad plumbing. But the restaurant-lounge **Tenement**, opening this week in a building that at various times served as a brothel and a gambling parlor, describes its menu in decidedly upscale terms, as "dressed-up comfort food." That means potato pancakes, pork loin stuffed with dried fruit, yucca dumplings, and pierogies, all making reference to immigrants past; the décor does the same, with reproduced Victorian-era wallpaper and framed Berenice Abbott black-and-whites. Nevertheless, some of the newfangled customs here might confuse your grandparents: There's a D.J. in the house Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and a fun bar menu—New York-style pretzels, mac and cheese, BLTs—is offered nightly from 11 P.M. into the wee hours. (157 Ludlow Street; 212-766-1270.)

THIS OLD HOUSE: The lounge at Tenement.

Ground Rules These listings are a selective guide to the city's restaurants, some *New York* advertisers among them. Stars (★) indicate our critics' recommendations. The price guide, admittedly imperfect, is as follows: (E) = expensive; (M) = moderate; (I) = inexpensive. Restaurants listed accept all major credit cards, except where noted; ($) = cash only; "AE only" indicates that American Express is the only accepted card.

New and Noteworthy

Aix
Didier Virot gave up the prestige of an executive-chef post at Jean Georges to open the ill-fated Virot at the Dylan Hotel. Now he's followed in the pioneering Noza (north of Zabar's) footsteps of Tom Valenti, bringing sophisticated French fare (blue-mussel cannelloni in spicy wine broth, crispy broiled squab with oatmeal-porcini cakes) four blocks north of Valenti's Ouest. The neighborhood should be big enough for both of them. • 2398 Broadway, at 88th St. (212-874-7400). (M–E)

Azafrán
The owners of this sleek Tribeca tapas bar traveled to the Basque country to pluck two promising young chefs from cooking school in San Sebastián, where they were immersed in the traditional arts of garlic shrimp, tortilla española, and ham croquettes, not to mention paella (the restaurant's name means saffron). Besides tapas, which come in tasting and sharing portions, there's a trove of Spanish cured meats and cheeses. • 77 Warren St. (212-284-0577). (M–E)

★ Beyoglu
Beyoglu is the best Turkish cooking in town, and if you don't believe us, chef-owner Orhan Yegen will tell you so himself. His steely-eyed braggadocio, delivered tableside in perfect soft-spoken Bond-villainese, almost seems intended to cast some sort of hypnotic spell. *You are getting hungry, very, very hungry. Have a kabob.* Yegen's discourse, though, is no match for his kitchen's superb minty yogurt soup, tantalizingly good meze, and succulent doner kabob (the only entrée available) served three ways. • 1431 Third Ave., at 81st St. (212-570-5666). (I–M)

★ Crispo
After two decades as a New York chef-for-hire, Frank Crispo has finally landed an open kitchen of his own, where he's serving up delicious Italian-Mediterranean fare like mint-braised artichokes, grilled pizzas, and a sliced hanger steak that puts most French bistros to shame (even minus the frites). The cozy room, the friendly service, and the gentle prices make this place a terrific addition to the neighborhood, but we'd come back for Frank's plate of lovingly sliced prosciutto alone. • 240 W. 14th St. (212-229-1818). (M)

Django
France is the latest culinary destination for the folks who brought us Calle Ocho, Rain, and Union Pacific; they've named their new 250-seat brasserie for the guitarist Django Reinhardt, and endeavored to warm up a midtown office building lobby with tapestry carpets, strands of beads, and a 30-foot antique mirror. To further the Francophile illusion, they've padded the menu with standard classics from escargots to steak au poivre, and snagged a pastry chef from Jean Georges. • 480 Lexington Ave., at 46th St. (212-871-6600). (M–E)

Dos Caminos
Stephen Hanson has made a habit—and a successful career—out of opening big, bold, budget-conscious restaurants. In this case, he adds margaritas and all sorts of assiduously researched Mexican fare to the mix. With 150 tequilas, 275 seats, and a south-of-the-border design scheme, he aims to spice up the state of Manhattan Mexican, from the humblest taco to the most complex mole. • 373 Park Avenue So., nr. 27th St. (212-294-1000). (M–E)

★ Fresh
After supplying fresh fish to star chefs like Alain Ducasse and Gray Kunz, the owners of Early Morning Seafood have opened a Tribeca restaurant of their own, turning their clients into the competition. Former Gotham chef de cuisine Martin Burge makes the most of getting first dibs on the day's catch with lightly crunchy fried Ipswich clams, melting "Kobe beef" of bluefin toro, and an array of "prime cuts" like baby-back halibut ribs steamed in kelp. • 105 Reade St. (212-406-1900). (E)

★ Gonzo
Chef-owner Vincent Scotto's cooked his way downtown, from Fresco to Scopa to this Village brownstone, where he's serving classics culled from his Italian-American repertoire like grilled-onion salad, Venetian-style bar snacks called cicchetti, salumi and cheese plates, and hearty entrées and sides meant to be shared. Don't miss his unbelievably great grilled pizzas topped with everything from cumin-scented ricotta to mashed potatoes. • 140 W. 13th St. (212-645-4606). (M)

Kitchen 22
Out like a light: In one fell swoop, owner Charlie Palmer has dispensed with Alva's Edison-inspired lightbulb theme and reconceived his Flatiron-district property with walnut beams, vanilla walls, and sea-green-and-blue-hued fabrics and banquettes. The menu, too, has been overhauled, edited down to a choice of five appetizers, five entrées, and five desserts, available only as a $25 three-course prix fixe. • 36 E. 22nd St. (212-228-4399). (M)

★ L'Impero
We can't imagine a better upscale Italian-food bargain than Scott Conant's $48 four-course prix fixe at this sophisticated new Tudor City restaurant, where he synthesizes elegance and rusticity in dishes like duck-and-foie gras agnolotti and roast baby goat. Vicente Wolf (also a partner) is responsible for the polished, roomy design, and managing partner Chris Cannon masterminded the user-friendly wine list, which offers great values on daily-changing house carafes. • 45 Tudor City Pl. (212-599-5045). (E)

Lozoo
This Houston Street newcomer juxtaposes strikingly modern décor with "traditional Chinese haute cuisine" like Maryland crab in whipped egg-white cloud, barbecued sirloin with shredded sesame tofu, and confit of sweet-and-spicy crispy eel. One of the owners has Kelley & Ping, Kin Khao, and Obeca Li on her estimable résumé; her partner draws inspiration from a wealth of memorable meals at his grandmother's table in Shanghai. • 140 W. Houston St. (646-602-8888). (M)

O Mai
First there was the East Village smash hit Cyclo. Then came Nam, the Tribeca triumph, which has in turn spawned a Chelsea outpost that aspires to the Vietnamese chainlet's winning formula of fresh, affordable food and stylishly understated décor. The kitchen reprises classics like wok-seared monkfish and lemongrass-crusted tofu, all done with characteristic delicacy and a knack for clear, vibrant flavors. • 158 Ninth Ave., near 19th St. (212-633-0550). (M)

★ Pazo
AZ's sister restaurant attempts to do for coastal Mediterranean cuisine what its precursor did for Asian fusion—reinvent it with a creative American spin. The menu features house-smoked bacon and chorizo, newfangled surf and turf, and witty variations on familiar themes like vitello tonnato of tuna carpaccio

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KENNETH CHEN.

and harissa-braised veal shank; the vaguely Moorish redesign of the former Sono space is equally whimsical. • 106 E. 57th St. (212-752-7470). (M–E)

☆ **Phi Lan**

This is the sweetest little spot you wouldn't expect to find in midtown with heartfelt Vietnamese home cooking and a tiny but cozy coffee-shop setting. When chef-owner Lan "Nancy" Tran decided to get into the business, she enlisted practically the whole Lan Tran clan—her sister's fiancé, her aunt from California, a great uncle or two. The family pride shows in delicious dishes like sautéed beef with peppers and onions, chicken with lemongrass and chilies, and pho. • 249 E. 45th St. (212-922-9411). (I)

★ **RM**

Rick Moonen made a name for himself at Oceana, and now he's hoping that name—or at least those initials—will induce his customers to follow him six blocks north to new digs, where, as chef-partner, he's as determined as ever to serve sustainably fished, environmentally correct seafood. Dinner is a $55 three-course prix fixe and features entrées like halibut "confit," pistachio-crusted skate, and pancetta-wrapped wild striped bass. • 33 E. 60th St. (212-319-3800). (E)

★ **Salt**

The short-lived Stella has acquired a lighter, brighter look, communal seating, and a seasonal menu that empowers diners to customize dinner: Pick your protein (poached arctic char, say, or tamarind-marinated lamb on skewers) and any two sides, like grilled corn on the cob or braised baby fennel and feta. Or play it safe with a pre-accessorized "chef's entrée," like steamed halibut with edamame and kumquats in miso broth. • 58 Macdougal St. (212-674-4968). (M)

Serafina Sandro

The big guy in the jungle-print gym pants is back. Not Joey Buttafuoco, but Sandro Fioriti, the celebrated Roman chef. After his Chelsea restaurant abruptly closed, he's returned to the Upper East Side, the neighborhood where he first blazed a spaghettini al limone trail nearly twenty years ago. And his signature dishes like ravioli filled with sea-urchin roe and roast suckling pig—not to mention those pants—are still attracting a lot of attention. • 38 E. 58th St. (212-832-8888). (M)

★ **Sparky's American Food**

Reformed dot-commer Brian Benavidez sourced the best ingredients he could find before opening this fast-food frankfurter joint in a converted Williamsburg warehouse. He uses Ronnybrook ice cream for milkshakes and organic Cheddar for cheese fries. But his Niman Ranch all-beef hot dog is the thing, and he serves it a dozen or so ways, with everything from homemade ketchup to coleslaw and bacon. And the name? "Sparky's my dog," he says. We suspected as much. • 135-A N. 5th St., Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-302-5151). (I) ($)

Svenningsen's

When some chefs branch out and open a new restaurant, they have a loyal client base to fall back on. Ron Svenningsen has a congregation. For the past sixteen years, he's held the title of head chef at Marble Collegiate Church, feeding the flock at various singles dinners, Sunday brunches, and ladies' teas. Now the former Maine lobsterman has opened his own old-fashioned fish house, serving shore dinners, fried Ipswich clams, and $13.50 lobster rolls. Mary's and Pearl's, watch your backs. • 292 Fifth Ave., near 30th St. (212-465-1888). (M)

Manhattan

Lower New York

★ **City Hall**

Chef-owner Henry Meer may be imagineering Old New York, with back-lit photos of bygone street life, but he can't help refining it, too. The triple-tier "Chrysler" shellfish highrise is global gluttony via the jet stream. Chesapeake she-crab soup is creamy perfection. But go for the marvelous double steak on the bone, a behemoth served stunningly rare. • 131 Duane St. (212-227-7777). (M–E)

☆ **Danube**

David Bouley's outrageous, lacquered, velvet-swathed little dining room is beautiful, fun, funny, and romantic. And, via his chef de cuisine, Mario Lohninger, the bone-marrow dumplings, the Tyrolean wine soup, the braised beef cheeks, and even the Wiener schnitzel manage to be Austro-Hungarian but not too. • 30 Hudson St. (212-791-3771). (E)

Delmonico's

Eat with the Big Boys at this sprawling, beautifully restored New York City icon. Start the feast the way Diamond Jim would have, with oysters Rockefeller and clams Casino, and end it with baked Alaska; in between there's lobster Newburg, rack of lamb, and, of course, the classic Delmonico's steak. And don't forget your jacket—or your wallet. • 56 Beaver St. (212-509-1144). (E)

★ **The Harrison**

With its long, bustling bar, commodious beamy interior, and friendly neighborhood vibe, the Red Cat's Jimmy Bradley and Danny Abrams's new hot spot feels like it's been part of the local landscape for years. There are all sorts of dining options—you can spend a week snarfing the spicy fries—but we like the big dishes best: the crispy chicken served on a fat mattress of scallion mashed potatoes, calf's liver smothered in a sweet sherry sauce, and the house shell steak drizzled with crisps of pancetta. • 355 Greenwich St. (212-274-9310). (M)

★ **Le Zinc**

Once you open a place like Chanterelle, where do you go from there? If you're Karen and David Waltuck, you head two blocks south and two blocks east to open a casual bistro—the perfect spot to unwind after a long night shaving truffles. The menu, a French framework embellished with Asian, Jewish, and Hungarian highlights, reads like the homespun work of someone who's sown his wild *hautes*: charcuterie, steak-frites, crispy duck wings, Grandma Gaby's stuffed cabbage. A burger, even. And nothing over $19.50. • 139 Duane St. (212-513-0001). (I–M)

★ **Nobu**

There is not another experience like it in town. Nobu Matsuhisa is a chef of such wondrous originality that nothing on his menu is merely as it reads. Each dish reinvents your definition of what it should taste like. Teensy oysters make your eyes pop. Bonito soothes the throat like sable. Seaweed sparkles. The fake trees aren't necessary. Two bites and you're in Eden. • 105 Hudson St. (212-219-0500). (M–E)

teany

Trendy vegetarians have it tough in this town: There aren't many meatless places immune from that throwback earthy-crunchy vibe. To the rescue comes techno-pop star Moby, who co-opened this new tea room and café where the breakfast-to-late-night menu features "teany bagels" with melted Cheddar and *faux* Canadian bacon, tomatillo-squash soup, and vegan vanilla-bean strawberry shortcake. • 90 Rivington St. (212-475-9190). (I)

★ **Théo**

The vanilla-and-caramel décor is cool but not chilly. Sound levels are buoyant but bearable. The appealing menu—call it international comfort food—doesn't rely on steak-frites to render it affordable. Waiters who are cute enough to intimidate newspaper critics don't forget you. And no velvet rope. Theo is startling because it is so deliberately of the angst-free moment, a hip hangout that instigates no anxiety. • 325 Spring St. (212-414-1344). (M)

★ **Thom**

In case your sense of civic duty hasn't compelled you *to visit Soho recently, here are two enticements to lure* you back: Thom's view of the Empire State Building from its new roof bar, and Michael Batt's equally seductive revamping of the ground-floor restaurant's menu. Batt's snapper crackling under glass noodles, spiced duck breast in a bath of huckleberry-plum wine, and orange-glazed lobster are as ingenious as they are delicious. • 60 Thompson St. (212-219-2000). (E)

Below 14th Street, East

★ **BondSt**

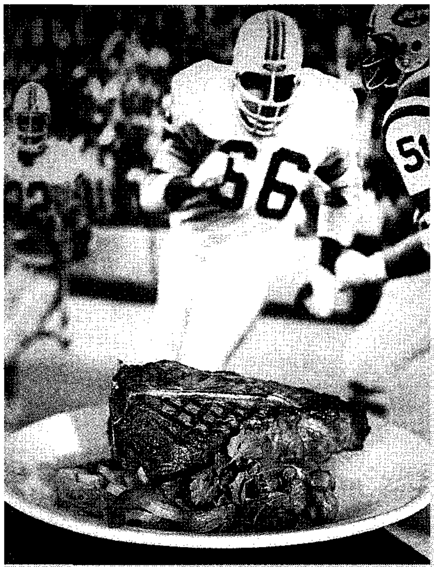
The crowd is too cool, the rooms too cozy, the waiters way too pretty. No way is this anywhere you're going to get chirashi worth much more than a can of Bumble Bee. Boy, are you about to be surprised. With food this fresh, original, and vibrantly spiced, the kitchen can easily take on most traditional midtown sushi houses and wouldn't have to walk out of a room backwards if Nobu's troops were in attendance. • 6 Bond St. (212-777-2500). (M–E)

★ **Gotham Bar & Grill**

What began with an unfocused menu of Americana in a raucous eighties-style grand café has mellowed over two decades into a trusted classic with Alfred Portale relentlessly pursuing perfection in the kitchen. Settle into a cocoon of confident service—informal but informed, friendly but unintrusive. Then, depending on the season and the market, rediscover Portale's discipline in a lush truffle-oil-perfumed risotto with caramelized sweet turnips, duck confit, and savoy cabbage. Or in a rustic and garlicky white-bean soup with floats of rabbit confit and wilted greens. Or in seared yellowfin propped alongside pappardelle rolled around caponata in which each vegetable is like a jewel. • 12 E. 12th St. (212-620-4020). (E)

industry (food)

What do you get when you mix a chef who worked



THE COACH HOUSE: A prime T-bone at Shula's.

Opening

Beefy Guy

Don Shula wants a meaty bite off Michael Jordan's plate: The legendary ex-coach of the Miami Dolphins is opening the sixteenth branch of his steakhouse chain, **Shula's**, in the brand-new Westin hotel at Times Square. Upon arriving, you'll be passed (!) a menu—listing the expected shrimp, lobster, snapper, certified Angus beef cut every which way—hand-painted on an official NFL pigskin. Serious carnivores who successfully polish off Shula's football-size porterhouse will be inducted into the 48 Oz. Club—now 18,000 members and counting. (270 West 43rd Street; 212-201-2776.)

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY KENNETH CHEN.

for Jean-Louis Palladin and Jean-Georges Vongerichten, bartenders and managers from Bungalow 8 and BondSt, and a treehouse-for-grown-ups rustic design? An instant hot spot, judging by the crowds getting back to nature in this wood-paneled rec room. Chef Alex Freij offers bistro fare (mussel stew, grilled skate wing, braised short rib) at neighborhood-friendly prices. • 509 E. 6th St. (212-777-5920). (M)

★ Jewel Bako
The façade of this tiny East Village jewel box of a restaurant references those forbidding midtown restaurant-cum-clubs with Japanese-only clientele, but the welcome from owner Jack Lamb and his wife, Grace, couldn't be warmer. The snug 24-seat dining room is clad in dramatic bamboo arches that lead back to the six-seat sushi bar, where the sushi chef reigns over a piscatory realm of rarities like Japanese spotted sardines and ark-shell clams. • 239 E. 5th St. (212-979-1012). (M-E)

★ Lil' Frankie's Pizza
The irresistible offspring of Frank is distinguished by its custom-built brick oven, a tool used to sublime effect on everything from torpedo-size eggplants and lasagne alla Bolognese to whole fish and terrific thin-crust pizza. The earthy fava-bean soup teeters deliciously on the edge of oversaltiness, but cut it with a juice glass of Montepulciano, or get your vegetables the traditional way—in the unfailingly fresh Lil' Frankie's house salad. • 19 First Ave. (212-420-4900). (I-M)

Osso Buco
Popular Italian restaurant on a much-traveled Village corridor serving family-style portions of the eponymous house specialty, Caesar salad, fried calamari, and T-bone steak. • 88 University Pl. (212-645-4525). Also, 1662 Third Ave., at 93rd St. (426-5422). (M)

Telephone Bar & Grill
This lively East Village fixture was serving classic pub grub like shepherd's pie and fish and chips long before anyone thought of British comfort food as trendy. • 149 Second Ave. (212-529-5000). (I-M)

★ Washington Park
Not since Dolly Levi descended the steps of the Harmonia Gardens has a return to a restaurant been so boisterously chronicled. The reason there is cause for high-kicking and strutting is that rather than bring us back down memory lane, eighties icon Jonathan Waxman reveals that his passion for market produce like dragon beans and ramps and his breezy touch in dropping them in pastas and alongside juicy duck confit is as vital as ever. • 24 Fifth Ave. (212-529-4400). (M-E)

Below 14th Street, West

★ Babbo
Ever try goat cheese tortellini dusted in dried orange and wild fennel pollen? Or spicy lamb sausage romanced by mint love letters and a paste of sweet peas? Get ready to crave them. Mario Batali's original yet airy Italian cooking will stun, fool, bewitch, and ultimately obsess you. Just get it together to make another reservation before you leave. • 110 Waverly Pl. (212-777-0303). (E)

Burrito Loco
The house burrito comes with three sauces and a choice of beef, pork, or chicken. There's a rendition stuffed with roasted lamb and lots of vegetarian options. And even though it could probably survive just by serving the hordes of marauding college students nachos and tacos, the festive cantina keeps things interesting with cactus salad and shrimp seviche. • 166 W. 4th St. (212-675-1977). (I-M)

★ Chow Bar
Chef-partner Peter Klein cooked at China Grill and El Teddy's before settling in the West Village, where he's turning out addictive honey-plum-glazed spareribs, Sichuan steak-frites, and Shanghai lobster noodles. Potent house cocktails fuel a lively crowd, which seems delighted to have found such a fun, quasi-exotic neighborhood place. • 230 W. 4th St. (212-633-2212). (M)

★ 'ino
Named for panino, this cozy nook excels at crafting perfect Italian snacks to nibble with wine: crustless tramezzini, pressed panini, and bruschetta, all on great bread with zesty condiments. Supplement your sandwich with a bowl of olives and a plate of cheese, and keep the motif going with a Nutella panino for dessert. Best of all, it's open from early morning until after midnight. • 21 Bedford St. (212-989-5769). (I) ($)

★ Mary's Fish Camp
Here's a tip for anyone who's ever paced up and down Cornelia Street waiting for a vacant stool at Pearl Oyster Bar: Now there are *two* West Village sources for world-class lobster rolls, silken clam chowder, herb-stuffed whole fish, and extended sidewalk pacing. One of Pearl's chef-partners left to open this sunny corner spot equipped with a curved stainless-steel counter and ten tiny tables. • 246 W. 4th St. (646-486-2185). (M)

Tio Pepe
Can't decide between Mexican and Spanish? This Greenwich Village kitchen has been doling out both for over three decades, and to judge by the liquor supply, the bar's been stocking a new brand of tequila every year. That sort of variety contributes to the general merriment, as do a heaping paella Valenciana and bicultural tapas like garlic shrimp and nachos, which many seem to enjoy in the skylit garden room. • 168 W. 4th St. (212-242-9338). (I-M)

★ Wallsé
Who knew veal goulash could be elegant? Kurt Gutenbrunner's version is an artful mound of tender meat you almost regret toppling. And though dishes like tafelspitz and wiener schnitzel seem like a culinary memoir, the guiding principle here is less goulash than Greenmarket. Local farmers supply Gutenbrunner with lemon thyme for his pike, heirloom tomatoes for his lamb salad, and the sweet strawberries that garnish his elderflower sorbet. • 344 W. 11th St. (212-352-2300). (M-E)

14th–42nd Streets, East Side

★ AQ Café
Scandinavia House's sleek concession run by Aquavit and its star chef, Marcus Samuelsson, provides a gastronomic introduction to Nordic culture. On the menu: textbook tender Swedish meatballs, a superb smorgasbord plate, and salmon lasagna crowned with ascending dollops of tomato salsa and salmon salad for which Samuelsson's mother country should award him a Nobel Prize. • 58 Park Avenue, at 38th St. (212-847-9745). (I)

Black Duck
Named for a rum-running boat and owned by a hotel-and-cruise-ship company, this tavernesque restaurant at the Park South Hotel understandably goes overboard on seafood dishes like lobster martini, porcini-and-herb-crusted salmon in pastry, and sushi-style sesame-seared tuna. The "black duck" is pepper-crusted magret cooked with the proprietary house rum. • 122 E. 28th St. (212-204-5240). (M)

Candela
These vast premises have been decorated with mission-style furniture, iron sconces, and what seems like a thousand votive candles. Chef Joseph Macri's New American menu features signature dishes like the Candela seafood platter, miso-glazed black cod, and Asian barbecued pork chop. $10.95 prix fixe Sunday brunch. • 116 E. 16th St. (212-254-1600). (M)

★ Craft
Tom Colicchio is a chef with a mission, two jobs, and what must be a crackerjack support team. When he's not supervising the three-star kitchen at Gramercy Tavern, he's reducing cooking (or elevating it, depending on your point of view) to its most basic elements, a tactic that works only when the ingredients are of the highest possible quality, procured from small family farms and artisanal producers. At his first solo venture, literally around the corner from Gramercy and similarly elegant, he and his chef de cuisine, Marco Canora, collaborate on a high-concept menu that focuses almost obsessively on raw materials. • 43 E. 19th St. (212-780-0880). (M-E)

★ craftbar
With only six daily entrées—two fish, two meat, and two pastas—craftbar might be Tom Colicchio and chef Marco Canora's laid-back answer to those still anxiety-stricken by Craft's hands-on menu. But before you get around to fish stew, braised rabbit, or linguine with clam sauce, you'll have to navigate a mouthwatering minefield of Italian-accented appetizers and snacks including risotto balls, salumi, and expertly pressed sandwiches. • 47 E. 19th St. (212-780-0880). (M)

★ Gramercy Tavern
Tavern has become Danny Meyer's most appealing restaurant, with a no reservations discount bar room to make one churlish for not living or working nearby. Chef Tom Colicchio pairs foods folks crave with elements they usually don't. Roast sirloin of beef comes with braised beef cheeks. Crabmeat fondue contains sea urchin. Not only does each gamble pay off, but so tickled are diners by their nascent daring that on their next visit, damned if they don't demand sweetbreads with Jerusalem artichokes and roasted cod with brussels sprouts. • 42 E. 20th St. (212-477-0777). (M-E)

Madison Bistro
What every neighborhood needs: a casual spot for French classics like escargots, steak-frites, and bouillabaisse. Open-faced sandwiches called tartines are available at the bar, as are rustic French wines poured from imported oak barrels. • 238 Madison Ave., nr. 37th St. (212-447-1919). (M)

Nong
Seemingly overnight, the Asian-influenced Aleutia morphed into the all-Asian (mostly Thai and Japanese) Nong, and a chef who used to work at Ruby Foo's came in to consult on the spicy new menu. Choose from wok plates (chicken fried rice), large plates (crispy whole fish), and bento-box lunches full of rolls, dumplings, and stir-fries. • 220 Park Ave. So., at 18th St. (212-529-3111). (M)

Rodeo Bar & Grill
This place bills itself as "the longest-running honky-tonk in New York," attracting bikers, families, and music-industry insiders. Urban cowboys can grab a drink at the horse trailer that's been converted into a bar, or tie on the feedbag with bison burgers, Santa Fe hand rolls, or the latest menu addition, Pearson's Texas barbecue, imported from Queens. • 375 Third Ave., at 27th St. (212-683-6500). (I)

★ Union Pacific
A dramatic otherworldly rain-forest setting is a fitting stage for Rocco DiSpirito's wildly inventive, wonderfully weird cooking. Sweet, small scallops nuzzled in their shells by blobs of sea urchin with an essence of tomato, mustard oil, mirin, and black mustard. Halibut braised in goose fat with ginger jus and shallot cracklings. Mango and papaya carpaccio with pineapple sherbet and candied cilantro. In less capable hands, mad delusions; in DiSpirito's, pure genius. • 111 E. 22nd St. (212-995-8500). (E)

★ Via Emilia
According to the menu at this spare but homey trattoria, tortellini came about centuries ago when an innkeeper caught a keyhole glimpse of a beautiful woman undressing, inspiring him to immortalize her navel in dough. We're not sure what that pervy pasta maker would think of modern-day belly-button-baring Manhattan, but in any case, he'd heartily approve of this kitchen's soulful tortellini in brodo, satisfying tortelloni, and the other Emilia-Romagnan delicacies like gnoccho fritti, the puffy fritters served with cured meats. • 240 Park Ave. So., near 20th St. (212-505-3072). (I-M)

14th–42nd Streets, West Side

★ Above
Don't be discouraged by the proletarian to-'n'-fro of 42nd Street. A sophisticated and handsomely designed hideaway waits in the twenty-first-floor lobby of the Times Square Hilton, and so does Galveston lobster chili, a classic Caesar, and butter-poached Maine lobster. • 234 W. 42nd St. (212-642-2626). (E)

Arno
Garment District bigwigs and pre-Garden revelers flock to this lively, upscale northern Italian restaurant. Try reliable classics like veal scaloppine and red snapper sautéed with shrimp and clams, garlic, and white wine. • 141 W. 38th St. (212-944-7420). (M-E)

Chelsea Ristorante
A solid Chelsea Italian restaurant catering to a business crowd at lunch; a casual, mature crowd for dinner; and large or small private parties anytime. From the wood-burning brick oven come all sorts of tasty things: hot seafood antipasti, grilled steak or lobster, and pizza; plus, there are house specialties like sautéed artichokes and homemade black tagliolini with smoked salmon in a

creamy tomato sauce. • 108 Eighth Ave. (212-924-7786). (M)

★ City Bakery
Heavenly tarts, perfectly textured cookies and brownies, luscious lemonades, ultrathick and creamy hot chocolate—even homemade marshmallows—beckon irresistibly from the checkout counter. Pre-dessert, there are inspired sandwiches like roasted pear and ricotta salata, and the only salad bar we obsess over, plus a breakfast and lunch counter with its own menu, and a habit-forming weekend brunch. • 3 W. 18th St. (212-366-1414). (I–M)

Nick & Stef's Steakhouse
Los Angeles chef Joachim Splichal opened the first branch of this steakhouse in his hometown, knowing it might play even better in red-meat-loving Manhattan. There's skillet cornbread, creamed spinach, and chocolate soufflé. And where's the beef? Front and center, hung out to dry in a steel-and-glass aging chamber. • 9 Penn Plaza (212-563-4444). (M–E)

★ The Park
Were you around during the eighties when places like Mudd Club and Area, and art in the East Village, made New York nightlife feel like the coolest in the world? If you were, then stop watching the reality-based show you're hooked on and go play in the Park, a great sandbox for urbanites who used to be kids but now have some of their own. If you've ever enjoyed the Odeon, you'll get into it. If not, this ain't your playground. • 118 Tenth Ave. (212-352-3313). (M–E)

Slate
Even if pool isn't your game, you might be willing to brave this hall's not exactly tony crowd, giant TVs, and techno throb—not to mention big guys wielding big sticks—for a crack at some delectable comfort food. The big cheese-and-mushroom-stuffed burger alone is worth crossing this cultural divide, and the chewy rare hanger steak is remarkable. • 54 W. 21st St. (212-989-0096). (M)

T.S. Ma
If you work at CNN, MSG, or the main post office branch, you've likely already eaten here. But if you're catching a train at Penn Station, or have tickets to the Garden, you should be aware that you're only minutes away from a plate of salt-and-pepper shrimp or General Tso's chicken. As has become increasingly prevalent in the Chinese-restaurant universe, there's also a sushi bar, plus a private dining area. • 360 W. 31st St. (212-971-0050). (M)

World Yacht Dining Cruises
Take an out-of-town visitor to see the sights—all of them—and sup on a selection from the "Best of New York" menu: featuring dishes based on recipes from the Sea Grill's Ed Brown, Olives's Todd English, and Park Avenue Cafe's David Burke, among others. Jacket required. • Pier 81, W. 41st St. at the Hudson River (212-630-8100). (E)

43rd–56th Streets, East Side

★ Avra
Just as they are uptown at sister restaurant Trata, Fulton Street–fresh whole fish are priced by the pound and described on the menu like wines. Barbounia, for example, is a "Mediterranean delicacy that tends to be bony but flavorful." Elsewhere on the menu, spinach pie goes Gallic as spanakopita napoleon and grape leaves get an unexpected stuffing of raw salmon, tuna, and cucumber. • 141 E. 48th St. (212-759-8550). (M–E)

★ Brasserie
Nostalgists may have wished for a clone of the original Brasserie. But the redesign is stunning and the big-brother video screens make as much of your entrance as those bygone steps used to. The classic French food (onion soup, steak frites, mandatory beignets) is satisfying and served from breakfast through late night—a welcome anomaly in this early-to-bed precinct. • 100 E. 53rd St. (212-751-4840). (M–E)

Café Centro
A big, shiny brasserie-cum-café in the lobby of the MetLife Building; the joint is as fun and good as nonexpensive midtown gets. In the loud little Beer Bar, get one of the best hamburgers in town. Closed Sunday. • 200 Park Ave., at 45th St. (212-818-1222). (M)

★ The Four Seasons
They're still the most perfect dining rooms in town. Happily, the owners sensed how marvelous it would be if the food matched the peerless design. They've radically altered an expensive menu to be more inventive, more seasoned, more current, and worth the bucks. The power lunchers may ignore what's on their plates, but the rest of us won't. • 99 E. 52nd St. (212-754-9494). (E)

Giambelli 50th Ristorante
Upscale Italian fare served in a warm and cozy atmosphere. The chef imports esoteric varieties of pasta from Italy to prepare his specialties; the fish and meat dishes are as careful. • 46 E. 50th St. (212-688-2760). (M)

Haru
Haru means "spring" in Japanese, and the design theme at this fourth and funkiest Manhattan branch of the Haru chainlet is man-made nature, from the digital-photomural-of-grass floor to the robotic fish in the aquariums over the bar. The menu features all the usual suspects, plus fusion fare like a strip steak with wasabi croquette, spicy shallots, and ginger sauce. • 280 Park Ave., nr. 48th St. (212-490-9680). (M)

★ La Grenouille
With a $45 prix fixe lunch (doubled at dinner), this isn't the place to pinch pennies. But it certainly feels like du vrai de vrai. The menu runs the Gallic gamut, from potage Saint-Germain (pea soup) to grilled sole. Still, for the money, you get gracious service and plush surroundings that transform any meal into a special occasion. • 3 E. 52nd St. (212-752-1495). (E)

★ Maloney & Porcelli
Maloney & Porcelli claims it isn't a steakhouse, but the tide of pinstripe and hunks of food suggest otherwise. The best meat dish, though, isn't steak but a mammoth "crackling" pork shank—which arrives with a steak knife thrust deep into it—and the service couldn't be nicer. • 37 E. 50th St. (212-750-2233). (E)

★ Michael Jordan's The Steak House N.Y.C.
If you're looking for him, he ain't there. But if you've come for great beef, that's another story. A better slab of New York strip sirloin would be hard to find, no matter which train you board downstairs. And you're surrounded by the spectacular restoration. It's almost as exciting as sitting courtside. • 23 Vanderbilt Ave., Grand Central Terminal (212-655-2300). (E)

Nino's Positano
Upscale Italian specializing in food from the south, Positano in particular. Pastas range from the simple (fusilli with tomato-basil sauce) to the more complex (Cognac-infused seafood risotto), and main courses traverse similar territory. • 890 Second Ave., nr. 47th St. (212-355-5540). (M)

★ Oyster Bar
Unperturbed by the arriviste competition in the food court next door, the jewel of the pre-renovation Terminal continues to serve superlative pan roasts and clam chowders, and an overwhelming assortment of oysters. The sprawling subterranean space has the hustle-bustle of a cafeteria, but don't be fooled—you pay for the privilege of eating under that vaulted tile ceiling. • Grand Central Terminal, 42nd St. and Vanderbilt Ave. (212-490-6650). (M–E)

Smith & Wollensky
Urban cowboys herd together over big steaks with knives to match at impresario Alan Stillman's signature chophouse. The place has that landmark-steakhouse look—bare oak floors, a raffish air, and bustling waiters wearing service stars. There's surf and turf aplenty, improvisations at lunch, and an enviable wine cellar. • 797 Third Ave., at 49th St. (212-753-1530). (M–E)

Tropica
Always packed at lunch, but squeeze in at the bar and order the conch chowder and a glass of tropical iced tea. The dining room serves some of the most imaginative Caribbean-inspired seafood in town, but be sure to go on a weekday—the restaurant, located in the lobby of the MetLife Building, is closed Saturday and Sunday. • 200 Park Ave., nr. 45th St. (212-867-6767). (M–E)

43rd–56th Streets, West Side

★ Aquavit
Swedish chef Marcus Samuelsson puts his own uninhibited spin on Scandinavian food, which isn't to say you won't find herring, gravlax, and Swedish meatballs. But for every expected Northern delight there's an innovation like tandoori-smoked char with goat-cheese parfait and Osetra caviar. Those who find the quasi-corporate dining room frosty can warm up with an aquavit or dine upstairs in the café. • 13 W. 54th St. (212-307-7311). (M–E)

Bello
Locals flock here for generous portions of well-priced Northern Italian served in a casually elegant atmosphere. Free parking with dinner after 5 P.M. • 863 Ninth Ave., at 56th St. (212-246-6773). (M)

Ben Benson's Steak House
This rollicking steakhouse has long fed hordes of hungry, beef-eating businessmen and the people who love them. At a time when steakhouses were famous for rudeness and hauteur, Benson's made a point of homeyness. The festive air gets pretty thick by the bar, where

Shopping

Pressing Concern

The appropriately named Autumn Stoscheck took a break from her trees last year, leaving Littletree Orchards in Newfield, New York, for a trip to England, where she visited a few cideries, took classes, and came home to open **Eve's Cidery**. A year later, her fruity, mildly alcoholic concoctions—Eve's Peach Apple, Montmorency Cherry Apple, Bittersweet Apple, Sparkling Apple—are finding their way to Manhattan shelves. Watch the Greenmarket for the truckful of wine bottles with playful labels (designed by Stoscheck) depicting Garden of Eden scenes. (Available Fridays at Union Square and Saturdays at the Farmer's Market in Rockefeller Center; from $8 a bottle.)

FRUIT OF HER LABORS: Hard cider from Eve's Cidery.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOE SCAFURO.

Opening

Homeland Security

Given the results of the midterm elections, a whole lot of New Yorkers feel utterly distant from the rest of America. So think of the General Store as a theme restaurant where you can pretend you're visiting one of the red states on the electoral map. Everything on the menu, from the Wisconsin cheese in the ham-and-cheese sandwich to the Maine lobster in the lobster potpie, is American in origin, and the combination restaurant-bar-ice-cream parlor-flower shop-bakery allows Manhattanites to visit an idealized, cuddly, and mercifully apolitical version of middle America. If you really need to drown your left-wing sorrows, there are desserts like Key-lime pie and homemade fudge—as well as twelve American beers on tap and 30 American wines by the glass. (29 Avenue B; 212-254-0055.)

AMERICAN PIE: Homemade goodies at the General Store.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PATRIK RYTIKANGAS.

cigars prevail, but there's a weatherproofed "front porch" and a dining room devoted entirely to the assiduous consumption of prime aged beef. • 123 W. 52nd St. (212-581-8888). (E)

Benihana
Long before *Iron Chef* taught us just how quick-handed knife-wielding Japanese cooks can be, there were the tableside cooking shows that are still the main draw at this teppanyaki steakhouse. Kids, of course, love it. • 47 W. 56th St. (212-581-0930). (E)

Cascina
The communal farmhouse tables and equally rustic house wines, imported from the owner's Northern Italian vineyard, conspire to make this trattoria feel more Tuscan countryside than Hell's Kitchen storefront. Beyond lasagne and minestrone, the menu surprises with dishes like rabbit casserole in a bread crust, barbecued veal ribs, and whole-wheat pizza with smoked salmon and cream cheese. • 647 Ninth Ave., nr. 45th St. (212-245-4422). (M)

Cité
Ambassador of beef Alan Stillman cops a French accent at this soaring midtown steakhouse known for its wine dinners. Meat is just the hard core of the menu, a document that also includes pan-seared crab cake and roasted salmon, and desserts big enough for two or more to share. For more casual dining, try the Cité Grill next door. • 120 W. 51st St. (212-956-7100). (M–E)

Da Rosina
Those with curtains to make and bellies to fill find just what they're looking for in this Restaurant Row standby, a reliable source for homemade pasta, chicken and veal cutlets every which way, and Italian classics from fried clams to tirami su. A $22 prix fixe dinner and $13.95 lunch make it easy to splurge on affordable indulgences like spicy lobster frutti di mare and broiled sirloin steak. • 342 W. 46th St. (212-977-7373). (M)

★ DB Bistro Moderne
Daniel Boulud's latest venture is supposed to be an homage to the simple bistro foods of his youth, but the great chef can't help making things fancy. Take boeuf en gelee, which Chef Boulud coats with sweet horseradish cream and serves in a dainty parfait glass. Or the $29 "DB Burger," leavened with foie gras and short ribs and a silver cup of pommes soufflés on the side. The space can feel a little hectic around theater time, but elbow your way in if you can. • 55 W. 44th St. (212-391-2400). (E)

★ Del Frisco's
Want to see what mahogany fashioned by testosterone looks like? This is without question the most urbane steakhouse you will ever see, its meat locker filled with terrific beef. From the usually overrated filet mignon, whose buttery blandness gets surmounted by a brash pepper-splattered crust, to the superb 26-ounce "double eagle" strip, Del Frisco's is a silverware-clanking crowd pleaser. • 1221 Sixth Ave., at 49th St. (212-575-5129). (E)

Fives
Maybe you're not an out-of-towner on a spending spree, but you can pretend to be at this sophisticated but casual hotel restaurant. Chef Oliver Dudler's modern "Atlantic rim" menu changes seasonally and features luxury items like foie gras served three ways and trendy touches like honey foam and a tapioca cake to complement a dish of seared squab. The bar menu offers sandwiches and snacks and 55 wines by the glass. • 700 Fifth Ave., at 55th St., in the Peninsula (212-903-3918). (M–E)

Haru
This branch of the stylish, popular Japanese mini-chain, like the others, specializes in fresh, oversize sushi, fifteen house sauces, plus fusion fare like a strip steak with wasabi croquette, spicy shallots, and ginger sauce. Natural wood tones and a wall of tree branches separating the dining room from the sushi bar brings a little serenity to Times Square. • 205 W. 43rd St. (212-398-9810). (M)

Johnnie's Italian
This old-world Italian restaurant has been a midtown fixture for over four decades. The menu runs the gamut from basic pastas to chicken, veal, and seafood dishes; the $14.95 dinner special is a particularly good deal. • 135 W. 45th St. (212-869-5565). (I–M)

Kishti
Coconut Grove, the short-lived, ambitious purveyor of Indian cuisine from the coastal state of Kerala, has come under new management, which has seen fit to expand the regional menu and offer a $9.95 buffet lunch—a downright bargain in this high-rent precinct. • 44 W. 56th St. (212-765-1800). (M)

★ Le Bernardin
Criticizing Le Bernardin is like analyzing rainbows. Just try to describe the snapper in coconut milk or the black bass with truffles and celery root. The new $84 prix fixe adds a fourth course, an extra chance to explore how mood and rhythm, travel and product, inspire a gifted chef. Submit to the sorcery of Eric Ripert, the bewitchery of owner and co-creator Maguy Le Coze, and experience the thrilling sensation of having everything perfect. • 155 W. 51st St. (212-489-1515). (E)

★ Le Madeleine
Don't sulk if you can't get into Esca across the street: This venerable bistro's gone modern under chef Bruce Beaty (whose lively flavors reflect stints with Alfred Portale and Gilbert LeCoze). We feel miles from Ninth Avenue in the quirky all-weather garden, sharing grilled lamb sausage and splendid yellowfin tartare. Lemon custard seals the deal. Grab a honey madeleine and catch that curtain. • 403 W. 43rd St. (212-246-2993). (M)

Maria Pia
A can't-go-wrong choice for theater-district Italian trattoria dining, Maria Pia excels with homemade hearty pastas like cavatelli Bolognese and satisfying entrées like pepper-crusted tuna. The three-course $19.95 prix fixe menu is available any time of day, seven days a week. • 319 W. 51st St. (212-765-6463). (I–M)

Martini's
Convenient for pre- and post-theater dining, with a buzzing sidewalk café and rustic homemade pastas, charcoal-grilled seafood, and, of course, multiple variations of the house drink. • 810 Seventh Ave., at 53rd St. (212-767-1717). (M)

Pig and Whistle
A business clientele and a coming-and-going-to-the-theater crowd can find Irish specialties—both solid and liquid—here. • 165 W. 47th St. (212-302-0112). Also, 922 Third Ave., nr. 55th St. (688-4646). (M)

Rock Center Café
Daily specials keep this contemporary rinkside dining room's American menu interesting, as does the strong Italian accent. Seafood risotto, fried calamari, and a burger with taleggio cheese keep diners focused on their plates rather than on the interpretive freestyle routines being perfomed on the ice. • 20 W. 50th St. (212-332-7620). (M)

★ The Sea Grill
Chef Ed Brown cooks fish so fresh at this Rockefeller Center seafood shrine that the menu notes the name of the boat that caught them; "à la plancha" means they're seared on a special grill that is supposed to excel at retaining moisture and flavor. Kitchen equipment aside, the results are indisputably delectable, as are appetizers like mussels in a Thai red-curry broth. • 19 W. 49th St. (212-332-7610). (E)

St. Andrews
In what might be New York's only full-fledged Scottish restaurant, the bartenders wear kilts, the scotch is single-malt, and the décor revolves around pictures of famous golf courses. The hearty steak-and-seafood menu features rack of lamb and brook trout stuffed with crabmeat and Irish oatmeal in a scotch-whiskey sauce. • 120 W. 44th St. (212-840-8413). (I–M)

★ Town
A delightful sensation takes over the moment you descend into Town—that all too infrequent feeling when you know you're going to be glad you came. From a front desk actually focused on you to a room aglow in plush, sleek romanticism, Town revels in being all grown up. But the real forte is chef-owner Geoffrey Zakarian, who prepares subtle, sophisticated dishes like tuna in ramp-and-sea-urchin sauce, and duck steak with buckwheat pilaf. • 15 W. 56th St. (212-582-4445). (M–E)

Trattoria Dopo Teatro
Famous for its signature open ravioli of lobster and lamb, the menu also offers an across-the-board selection of regional Italian specialties. The dining room is decorated with Italian cinema stills and single-minded connoisseurs, and private parties can pursue their passions in the wine room, the grappa room, or the cigar lounge. • 125 W. 44th St. (212-869-2849). (M)

Utsav Festive India
The $12.95 all-you-can-eat lunch buffet may be pricier than some, but the setting—an elevated bridge between two midtown office buildings—is posher, with tablecloths and flowers and gracious waiters wearing chili-pepper-patterned neckties. Every day brings a selection of four vegetable and three meat dishes, plus salads, chutneys and pickles, nan, superb saffron-speckled rice, and silky-sweet Indian puddings for dessert. • 1185 Sixth Ave., nr. 46th St. (212-575-2525). (M)

Zanzibar
The crowd at this loungey Hell's Kitchen restaurant is as eclectic as the menu. African, Arabic, Asian, and Mediterranean touches appear in dishes like tuna and ginger ravioli; mussel soup with garlic, chickpeas, and cilantro; and a root vegetable and peanut stew served over rice. • 645 Ninth Ave, nr. 45th St. (212-957-9197). (M)

57th–60th Streets

★ Brasserie 8 1/2
At this souped-up designer bookend to the newly modish Brasserie, you get big brasserie dishes plus a pumpkin-carpeted-diva staircase entrance, and two subterranean, airport-lounge-style bars. The simpler menu choices tend to be better, like the frisée salad, the burger, and the cornflake-crusted crab cakes. • 9 W. 57th St. (212-829-0812). (M–E)

Jimmy's Downtown
We're betting that the low, lean, and sexy intimacy of Jimmy Rodriguez's sequel to Jimmy's Uptown and Jimmy's Bronx Café will lure grown-ups on the prowl to this unlikely eastern shoal of 57th Street. Slither through the all-white, candlelit lounge and settle into a booth out back where servers lyricize over yuca-crusted scallops, a huge juicy pork chop, and luscious grilled sturgeon on creamy avocado mash. And don't leave without indulging in lush coconut flan. • 400 E. 57th St. (212-486-6400). (E)

The Manhattan Ocean Club
Savor your seafood in an elegant dining room decorated with Picasso ceramics. A pictorial menu features a dozen or so smiley-faced fish. Preparations range from classic (Dover sole meunière) to creative (grouper with roasted pineapple and black peppercorns). Or have the chef prepare your fish any way you like. • 57 W. 58th St. (212-371-7777). (E)

★ March
Expanded seating and a rooftop terrace aren't the only welcome additions to this ultraromantic Sutton Place townhouse. Wayne Nish has shed his obsession with Japan and embraced what he calls "New York cuisine," luxed up with a little more cream and butter. A typical tasting menu begins in a truffly, buttery haze of vegetable fricassee, then segues into Muscat-scented lobster and moist chicken in spice-mulled pear cider, before climaxing in rustic lamb shoulder with fennel purée. • 405 E. 58th St. (212-754-6272). (E)

★ Norma's
Anyone who equates French toast or biscuits with Mom and unconditional love might agree that the Parker Meridien's spiffy Norma's, with its exuberant all-day breakfast, is worthy of an award. Pancakes by a mom on Prozac. Complimentary fruit-smoothie shots and a duo of croissants oozing smoked-salmon-flecked scrambled eggs. If there really can be too much of a good thing, then breakfast here ought to be against the law. • 118 W. 57th St. (212-708-7460). (M)

ONEc.p.s.
Alan Stillman, along with executive chef David Burke and designer Adam Tihany, has rewired the Plaza's Edwardian Room. Tihany has colored the oaken walls caramel and put huge scarlet lampshades on the chandeliers, and the irrepressible Burke has concocted a whimsical menu that includes a foie gras–spiked burger and a rack of lamb accompanied by shepherd's pie. The mosaic floors and ceiling remain untouched, and the view of Central Park is as grand as ever. • 1 Central Pk. So. (212-583-1111). (E)

★ San Domenico
You won't find a more elegant big-deal Italian restaurant in New York. We treasure it for the luxurious space at and between tables, the cool coach-leather chairs, the clockwork service, and the refinement of the risottos, pastas, fish, and game. Owner Tony May has an uncompromising passion for the highest quality Italian ingredients and devotedness to classical technique that rivals any Michelin-starred chef, and it shows. • 240 Central Park So. (212-265-5959). (E)

★ Shelly's New York
The latest Shelly Fireman production inhabits an old Automat space, ergo the "Horn & Hardart" creamed spinach and macaroni and cheese. Only the assimilative Fireman (of Brooklyn Diner fame) would offer towering shellfish platters and stone crabs flown in daily from Joe's in Miami Beach alongside miso-glazed halibut, chicken schnitzel, and a 50-ounce porterhouse steak cooked "Brooklyn style" and make it all work. • 104 W. 57th St. (212-245-2422). (M–E)

Above 60th Street, East Side

★ Atlantic Grill
This place is as Upper East Side as a jitney ride to Wainscott. Yet it also has a try-anything-once attitude toward seafood: Hey, buddy, we got a pan-Asian sushi bar, a wood-burning grill, a big lobster pot. Tell us what you want, and it's yours. On an avenue where the restaurants are as hard to tell apart as the clientele's khakis, Atlantic Grill's adroitness is more than a drop in the ocean. • 1341 Third Ave., nr. 76th St. (212-988-9200). (M)

The Boathouse in Central Park
Claim a table by a flowery umbrella on the pond-side deck and give thanks to Frederick Olmsted and generations of park champions for preserving this precious greenery. The American menu leans toward fresh seafood like pan-roasted monkfish with spring onions and garlic confit, and seared wild striped bass. • E. 72nd St. and Park Dr. N. (212-517-2233). (M–E)

★ Café Sabarsky
Museum Mile is full of museum cafés, but none quite like this elegant evocation of a Viennese-style kaffeehaus at Ronald Lauder's Neue Galerie New York. The artistic sensibility permeates the café, with its reproductions of Josef Hoffmann sconces, Adolf Loos bentwood chairs, and Otto Wagner fabrics. And the theme continues with tortes (Sacher and Linzer), Bavarian ham for breakfast, cod strudel for lunch—and Friday nights only, dinner service until 9 P.M. • 1048 Fifth Ave., at 86th St. (212-288-0665). (M)

★ The Dining Room
You know how you love cooking those intimate dinners at home for just you and your close friends? Oh, you don't. Well, then don't you wish you were at one? This scrumptious example of turning lemons into lemon soufflé not only transforms an awkward layout but gets you all warm and snuggly with hearty American cuisine that surprisingly weighs less than the conversations around it. • 154 E. 79th St. (212-327-2500). (M–E)

Haru Sake Bar
Very fresh sushi, sashimi, tempura, plus Japanese fusion fare, and an expanded selection of sake and sake cocktails are the draw at this popular uptown branch of the Japanese mini-chain. Take-out service too. • 1327 Third Ave., at 76th St. (212-452-1028). (M)

★ JoJo
This is where it all began, where Jean-Georges Vongerichten first stunned gourmands with his herbal essences, vegetable sauces, and gossamer desserts. The once-staid townhouse has been rendered nearly unrecognizable with a fin de siècle French-bordello remake and a hip-hop soundtrack, but in his reigning wisdom, the megachef still lets them eat cake—specifically, his signature molten Valrhona-chocolate masterpiece. • 160 E. 64th St. (212-223-5656). (E)

Maine Lobster Seafood Restaurant
For a chunk of land surrounded by water, Manhattan surprisingly isn't known for its casual American seafood, the type of salt-water-scented fare that defines New England dining. Maine Lobster hopes to change all that with its across-the-board seafood menu of stone crabs, "very crabby" crab cakes, lobster rolls, pan-seared scallops, and steamed lobster. • 1631 Second Ave., nr. 85th St. (212-327-4800). (M)

Mark's
Decked out like a private London club, with plump, tasseled pillows. Fine French-American cooking (roasted beet salad with goat cheese, thyme-crusted

Data

Don't Bring Dessert

Small ovens, busy schedules, and cooking ineptitude conspire to make the traditional home-cooked **Thanksgiving feast** a bit much for many New Yorkers to handle. To which end, teams of professionals are more than happy to take care of the chopping, stuffing, baking, and serving for you. No dishes to do? That's worth giving thanks for.

TARA MANDY

San Domenico 240 Central Park South 212-265-5959	You'll get your turkey, stuffing, yams, and cranberry sauce. But that's just the main course. There's more, from pumpkin ravioli to Verona pastries ($60 prix fixe).
Good 89 Greenwich Avenue 212-691-8080	Comforting dishes like sweet-potato-squash-and-apple soup, cider-glazed pork tenderloin, and pumpkin bread pudding ($48 prix fixe; seatings at 1, 3, 5, and 7:30 P.M.).
City Hall 131 Duane Street 212-964-4249	Currently taking reservations for whole turkeys; families can take the leftovers home for next-day sandwiches. All the sides, too ($58 prix fixe; $22 for kids).
Terrance Brennan's 565 Lexington Avenue, at 50th Street 212-715-2400	The one-man force behind Picholine and Artisanal opens his new seafood and chop house on Turkey Day itself, with a menu that includes terrine of wild game, pumpkin bisque, and apple tarte tatin with Cheddar crust ($75 prix fixe).
Pazo 106 East 57th Street 212-752-7470	There's nothing traditional about Patricia Yeo's Thanksgiving offerings. But you do get turkey three ways: roast breast, stuffed thigh, and confit leg ($60 prix fixe).
Fleur de Sel 5 East 20th Street 212-469-9100	With dishes like parsnip soup with white truffles and chestnut ravioli, venison loin, and caramelized apple crêpe, this is Thanksgiving at its dressiest ($55 prix fixe).

ILLUSTRATION BY JON C. LUND.

Ask Gael

I want a lunch spot that's discreet and delicious.

At the moment, lunch at Lutèce could not be more discreet, but that might not last given the lure of the remarkable $29 prix fixe. On first visit, I was so spooked by chef David Feau's foie gras smothered in semisweet-chocolate sauce, I fled. But as a congenital tightwad, I can't pass up a bargain. So *voilà*. There are still faces familiar from André Soltner's Lutèce, though the garden, all muffled in beige, is a shock—severe but soothing, good for gossip and seduction. Chef Feau strives and sometimes strains: His smartly mounted carpaccio tasting is provocative and mostly rewarding. Lush nubbins of caramelized duck on circlets of black radish are odd as a starter (with a bit more duck, it could be an entrée). A chic salmon fillet floats in a creamy vegetable blanquette, and a scattering of veggies makes a wonderful foil for cabbage-wrapped halibut. Yogurt crème brûlée is a reach that definitely pleases. (249 East 50th Street; 212-752-2225.)

VIVE LA FRANCE: Can lunch at Lutèce regain its cachet?

tuna with tomato and black-olive vinaigrette), award-winning wine list, and a Willy Wonka–worthy chocolate tea. • 25 E. 77th St., in the Mark Hotel (212-879-1864). (E)

Mo's Caribbean Bar and Mexican Grill
Pack your bags, sweetie; we're going to the islands. Close enough. This spot with an MTV-beach-party vibe serves Caribbean and Mexican-American fare like jerk chicken burritos, enchiladas, and fajitas—all in a dining room with real palm trees. Reserve for Monday's Lobster Madness night. Leave with a suntan. • 1454 Second Ave., at 76th St. (212-650-0561). (M)

Nino's
Elegant Italian with a romantic mural garden and nightly live entertainment. Try the grilled dishes—tuna on a bed of balsamic onions, double-cut veal chop—or the lobster fra diavolo. • 1354 First Ave., nr. 72nd St. (212-988-0002). (E)

★ Park Avenue Cafe
A polished, countrified American café for business lunches and get-to-know-yous in the evening. Chef David Burke makes the tired catchall "American fare" sing, and keeps the neighbors rapt with signature dishes like salmon pastrami with crushed pepper. • 100 E. 63rd St. (212-644-1900). (E)

★ The Post House
How grand can a steakhouse get? If you took a meat-and-potatoes guy who liked to hang out at the Art Student's League, gave him a few years at Princeton, and financed his *Wanderjahr* abroad, he might come home and open the Post House. It's clubby but not snooty, with a Christo here and a Twombly there, and a well-traveled menu that includes everything from a Cajun rib steak to venison osso buco. • 28 E. 63rd St., in the Lowell Hotel (212-935-2888). (E)

Rouge
Despite the demure Upper East Side– townhouse setting, Rouge is really a bargain bistro masquerading as a big-ticket restaurant. Nothing on David Ruggerio's menu breaks the $20 barrier, decorative dabs of sauce and baby boutique-greenery garnishes notwithstanding. The framework is French, with occasional forays into trendy Italian and Asian territory, like the spicy miso-marinated Chatham cod. The "chef's wine list" is a bonanza of equally affordable bottles at laughably low mark-ups. • 135 E. 62nd St. (212-207-4601). (M)

Sel & Poivre
Stanching the flow downtown for bistro fare. Regulars find what they are looking for in this quaint, countrified space. The country-French cuisine includes steak au poivre, bouillabaisse, and roasted chicken, and the prix fixe menus are a bargain. • 853 Lexington Ave., nr. 64th St. (212-517-5780). (M)

Above 60th Street, West Side

★ Calle Ocho
Who'd a thunk it? That the West Side could ever boast a restaurant as uncalculatingly sexy as Calle Ocho, with its far wall's spectacular Caribbean sunset of glazed terracotta and its jewel-toned banquettes curving through the space like waves along the gulf? Let a staff so winning you at first suspect they're a few mojitos ahead of you steer you towards tangy lobster seviche, seafood paella, and terrific yuca fries. • 446 Columbus Ave., near 81st St. (212-873-5025). (M–E)

★ Compass
It didn't work as Marika, not even when talented Neil Annis took over. With a shift of partners, the newly dubbed Compass has finally found a winning West Side mojo. This time around Annis's tweaked menu (a clever chopped salad, luscious vichyssoise, shimmering halibut, a first-rate veal chop, short ribs on fingerling purée) should garner as much attention as the design. • 208 W. 70th St. (212-875-8600). (E)

★ Jean Georges
Are you ready for an amazing evening that is not about you? Nothing and no one at Jean Georges steals center stage from the wondrous creations of Jean-Georges Vongerichten. If you're okay with such divine supplication, prepare to be open-mouthed whenever you're not chewing. Nothing you encounter will fail to dazzle, from the simplest dish of asparagus and morels au jus to the unexpected combo of sweetbreads en cocotte with ginger and licorice. • 1 Central Park West (212-299-3900). (E)

★ Nick & Toni's Café
This spinoff of the East Hampton classic is literally a hot spot, with flavorful Mediterranean food popping and sizzling in the wood-burning oven. Ingredients are top-notch, wines well selected, and the oven-roasted chops and whole fish consistently satisfying. Pizza night on Sunday gives John's a run for its thin-crust money. • 100 W. 67th St. (212-496-4000). (M–E)

★ Ouest
After cultivating a coterie of foodie followers at places like Alison on Dominick and Cascabel, Tom Valenti brings his distinctive style of boldly layered flavors—and those lamb shanks—to a neighborhood legendarily short on sophisticated grub. Clearly, he's doing his darnedest to turn the tide with reprises of old favorites like potato, goat cheese, and truffle terrine with transcendent beets; and lusty short rib on an ooze of polenta perfumed with smoked onions. • 2315 Broadway, near 84th St. (212-580-8700). (M–E)

Rain
Slightly tamed for American consumption, the spices at this Upper West Side Thai restaurant are fragrant rather than fiery, but that doesn't detract from the appeal of dishes like Thai chicken-and-coconut soup, pad Thai, and curried beef. • 100 W. 82nd St. (212-501-0776). (M)

Restaurant 222
Still as cozy and romantic as ever, Restaurant 222 has changed direction: Owner Frank Valenza now calls it an "American-Italian" steakhouse. That means surprisingly flavorful fillet steaks accompanied by sauces like pizzaiola and nutted garlic and irresistible whipped potatoes. The prix fixe menus ($20 at lunch, $29.95 at dinner) are particularly good deals, especially compared with the pricy à la carte offerings. • 222 W. 79th St. (212-799-0400). (E) ($)

★ Ruby Foo's
In what might be Auntie Mame's duplex, the black-bean sauce is vibrant and the wok steamed lobster is worth its weight in jade. And regardless of where you sit, you have to walk down the staircase at least once. Screaming "Live! Live! Live!" is optional. • 2182 Broadway, at 77th St. (212-724-6700). (M)

Scaletta
A dining room decorated in muted blues and pinks is the tranquil setting for refined Northern Italian fare, from smoked salmon and beef carpaccio to a selection of risotto and veal dishes. Conveniently located across the street from those famous dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History. • 50 W. 77th St. (212-769-9191). (M)

Brooklyn

★ Cucina
Mark Strausman, the guiding culinary force behind Campagna and Fred's at Barneys, has unexpectedly taken the wheel at this pioneering Park Slope kitchen, where he's serving his distinctive brand of Italian-American comfort food: nutty grilled hen-of-the-woods mushrooms; tangy eggplant Parmesan; and signature pastas (toothsome penne in a creamy spinach sauce, the famous Campagna lasagna) all available by the half-order. You'll want to pace yourself for diet-be-damned entrées like veal Parmesan and peppery "Cucina steak." • 256 Fifth Ave., nr. Carroll St., Park Slope (718-230-0711). (M)

D.O.C. Wine Bar
The wine at this rustic Williamsburg enoteca with a Sardinian slant flows like Rheingold at a frat party. Which might explain why the ebullient, mostly Italian crowd is hugging and chain-toasting one another late into the night. For sustenance, try piquant honey-drizzled sheep's-milk cheese paired with a Sardinian red Cannonau served in a two-ounce glass called a *marzianetto*, or a delicious pressed panino on crusty Sullivan Street Bakery ciabatta. • 83 N. 7th St. (718-963-1925). (I) ($)

Queens

Christos Hasapo-Taverna
Steak is the thing at this rustic Greek Astoria butcher shop and restaurant: shell, T-bone, and porterhouse portioned for two or three just like at Peter Luger's. Instead of shrimp cocktail and creamed spinach, though, there's classic appetizers tzatziki: spanakopita, and Greek fries with cheese and oregano to go with the meat. • 41-08 23rd Ave., Astoria (718-777-8400). (M–E)

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PATRIK RYTIKANGAS.

cue

Classical & Dance

Edited by Alicia Zuckerman

Classical Music

★ **New York Festival of Song**
Presents "Dvořák and the American Soul," songs by the Czech composer and his American students, including the well-known composer of African-American spirituals Harry T. Burleigh. 11/20 at 8. • Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (646-230-8380); $36.

★ **Peter Serkin**
Much-acclaimed pianist performs Stefan Wolpe's *Passacaglia* and Beethoven's Sonata No. 30 in E Major and the *Diabelli* Variations. 11/20 at 7:30. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $25–$89.

★ **New York Philharmonic**
Baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky is featured in Mussorgsky/Shostakovich's *Songs of Dances and Death*, led by Yuri Temirkanov. Program also includes Ravel's *Le tombeau de Couperin* and Brahms's Symphony No. 4. 11/21 and 11/25 at 7:30; 11/23 at 8. • Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center (212-875-5656); $25–$88.

Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France
Makes its New York debut at Carnegie with three all-French programs honoring the tenth anniversary of Olivier Messiaen's death. Conductor-pianist Myung-Whun Chung worked closely with the composer. Debussy, Ravel, and Saint-Saëns are also performed. Call for details. 11/21–11/23 at 8. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $25–$84 (11/23: $42).

★ **Daniil Shtoda**
Tenor makes his Carnegie debut. (See box.) 11/21 at 8. • Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall (212-247-7800); $32.

Urna Chahar-Tugchi
Singer from the Mongolian grasslands, with her ensemble, performs her own work as well as traditional Mongolian folk music. 11/22 at 7. • Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St. (212-570-3949); $50.

★ **National Chorale**
Performs Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Ernst Toch's humorous spoken fugue, *Fuge aus der Geographie*. 11/22 at 8. • Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center (212-333-5333); $27–$88.

★ **"The Art of the Guitar"**
Tan Dun's *Seven Desires on Pipa for Solo Guitar* has its world premiere, performed by Grammy winner Sharon Isbin. Also, Renaissance duets and works from Spain, China, and the British Isles. 11/23 at 8. • 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $30.

"Celebrating Luciano Berio"
Pianist Ursula Oppens, soprano Lucy Shelton, and others perform music by the great Italian new-music composer, including a setting of e.e. cummings's *Circles* and a new piano sonata. 11/22 at 7:30. • Cooper Union, the Great Hall, Third Ave. and 7th St. (212-279-4200); $20.

★ **David Daniels**
One of the biggest names in the current countertenor renaissance performs Handel, Mozart, Fauré, Britten, a new Theodore Morrison work, and American folk songs. 11/23 at 7:30. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $22–$69.

★ **Tokyo String Quartet**
Legendary pianist Alicia de Larrocha, having recently announced her upcoming retirement, performs Mozart's Piano Concert No. 12. Schubert and Beethoven quartets are on the program, too. 11/25 at 7:30. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $23–$74.

★ **Hilary Hahn**
Wonderful young violinist makes her anticipated Carnegie-recital debut with works by Bach, Schubert, Debussy, and Bloch. 11/26 at 7:30. • Carnegie Hall, Seventh Ave. at 57th St. (212-247-7800); $22–$69.

Opera

Amato Opera
Final weekend of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. 11/22 and 11/23 at 7:30; 11/24 at 2:30. • Amato Opera, 319 Bowery (212-228-8200); $28.

★ **Metropolitan Opera**
Presents Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and *Aida*. Call, or visit metopera.org. • Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center (212-362-6000); $25–$280.

★ **New York City Opera**
Fall season wraps up with Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *La Traviata*, and Humperdinck's children's opera, *Hansel and Gretel*. Call, or visit nycopera.com. • New York State Theater, Lincoln Center (212-870-5570); $25–$110.

★ **L'Opéra Français de New York**
Soprano Amy Burton (City Opera regular) stars in *Yvonne Printemps: A French Diva Unveiled*, an original production exploring the colorful life of the operetta singer and actress who took Paris by storm from the twenties through the fifties. 11/20, 11/22, and 11/23 at 8. • Florence Gould Hall, 55 E. 59th St. (212-355-6160); $36.

Dance

★ **Garth Fagan Dance**
Presents the world premiere of *Translation Transition*, a look at the similarities and differences between American jazz and Jamaican music (reggae, ska); a revival of 1995's *River Song*, developed on a Montana Indian reservation, combines Native American, African, and American dance traditions; also, last year's *Music of the Line/Words in the Shape* and other works. Through 11/24. Tues.–Sat. at 8, Sun. at 2 and 7:30. • Joyce Theater, Eighth Ave. at 19th St. (212-242-0800); $40.

★ **Sankai Juku**
Japanese butoh troupe returns to BAM with the New York premiere of the dreamscape *Hibiki (Resonance From Far Away)*, the 2001 Olivier Award winner for Best New Dance Production. 11/19 and 11/21–11/23 at 7:30; 11/24 at 3. • Brooklyn Academy of Music, Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718-636-4100); $20–$50.

★ **Grace Ellen Barkey / Needcompany**
Brussels-based dance-theater company premieres *(And)*, a take on the grotesque side of fairy tales, based on a Persian story, and performed in a puppet-theater-sized space. It is the sequel to Barkey's Chinese opera *Few Things*. 11/20–11/23 at 8. • The Kitchen, 512 W. 19th St. (212-255-5793); $20.

Cathy Weis
Guggenheim fellow and Bessie winner presents the world premiere of *Electric Haiku*, a series of short multimedia "visual poems," and *An Abondanza in the Air*, a collaboration with Lisa Nelson. Call for details or visit dtw.org. 11/21–12/1. • Dance Theater Workshop, 219 W. 19th St. (212-924-0077); $32.

★ **Complexions**
Troupe led by former Alvin Ailey stars Desmond Richardson and Dwight Rhoden makes its debut as a repertory company. 11/23 at 8; 11/24 at 3. • The Hudson Theater, 145 W. 44th St. (866-468-7619); $25–$55.

Le Ballet National de Senegal
West African ensemble of dancers and musicians presents *Kuuyamba*, a highly energetic look at Mandingue rites of passage. 11/23 at 8. • Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Brooklyn College, Walt Whitman Theater (718-951-4500); $30–$35.

★ **New York City Ballet**
Opening night salutes Richard Rodgers, with three world premieres including one by just-retired company favorite Robert La Fosse. 11/26 at 7:30. • New York State Theater, Lincoln Center (212-870-5570); $20–$2,000.

Ground Rules This section emphasizes classical concerts, recitals, and outdoor performances (but only the premeditated ones), and includes the occasional jazz concert if it is held, say, in a public space. Stars (★) indicate our editors' recommendations. For rock concerts and club information, see "Nightlife."

Talent

Soul Singer

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Tenor Daniil Shtoda performs romantic songs at Carnegie.

After the tenor **Daniil Shtoda** made his debut at the Edinburgh Festival in 2001, a Scottish critic gushed that he'd heard the "voice of God." That may be a bit much, but the 25-year-old St. Petersburg native with impeccable diction and a sweet, warm tone has certainly been making waves abroad. On Thursday, a month after having sung the role of Nadir in Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* with the Opera Orchestra of New York, he'll make his Carnegie Hall recital debut. His accompanist and vocal coach, Larissa Gergieva (a wonderful pianist in her own right and the sister of conductor Valery Gergiev), helped choose the repertoire, an all-Russian program of romantic songs (some from his latest CD, *Songs*) by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, and several composers less well known in the States. These songs are a reflection of "the Russian soul," says Shtoda through a translator. "It's beautiful music that can help us understand that period in Russia." (See "Classical.") A.Z.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAVEL ANTONOV.

cue

Nightlife

Edited by Ethan Brown

Concerts

Blondie
11/23 at 8. Back again for another reunion tour and, believe it or not, another repackaging of their greatest hits. Still, many of the band's songs—"(I'm Always Touched By Your) Presence Dear" and "Picture This" in particular—represent pop at its most transcendent. • Roseland Ballroom, 239 W. 52nd St. (212-307-7171). $38.

★ Laurie Anderson
11/20–11/24 at 8. • St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St., Brooklyn (718-858-2424). $27.50.

★ DJ Shadow
11/20 at 7:30. • Roseland Ballroom, 239 W. 52nd St. (212-307-7171). $25.

Peter Gabriel
11/21 at 8. Gabriel's long-awaited new album, *Up,* is too long on atmospherics; it sounds like it was labored over for the entire decade during his absence from the music scene. • Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. and 34th St. (212-307-7171). $50.50–$135.50.

★ Rush
11/24 at 8. Prog rock, but with irresistible pomp. And, they've influenced everyone from Q-Bert to Creed. • Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. and 34th St. (212-307-7171) $39.50–$94.50.

Shakira
11/20 at 8. This Colombian pop singer's awkward lyrics like "underneath your clothes / there's an endless story" sound like they were victim of poor translation. Nonetheless, she's an engaging presence live thanks to her slinky belly-dance routines. • Madison Square Garden, Seventh Ave. and 34th St. (212-307-7171). $49.50–$99.50.

Small Stages

B.B. King Blues Club & Grill
11/20: Mike Clark. 11/21: Keller Williams. 11/22–11/23: The Radiators. 11/24: Cafe Tacuba. • 243 W. 42nd St. (212-997-4144).

Bottom Line
11/21: Mahavishnu Project. 11/22: Cheryl Wheeler; Steve Poltz. 11/23: Niacin. 11/25: "Jazz Is Dead" with Billy Cobham; Kenny Gradney; T Lavitz; Jeff Pevar. • 15 W. 4th St. (212-228-6300).

Bowery Ballroom
11/20: Donna the Buffalo. 11/22: Mr. Scruff. 11/23: Clem Snide. 11/24: Jets to Brazil. • 6 Delancey St. (212-533-2111).

Irving Plaza
11/20: The Ataris; Sugarcult. 11/25: St. Etienne. 11/26: Kelly Osbourne. 11/27: Deep Banana Blackout. • 17 Irving Pl. (212-777-6800).

Joe's Pub
11/20: Ari Heist. 11/21: Erin McKeown. 11/22: Polygraph Lounge. 11/23: Howard Fishman. 11/24: Asylum Street Spankers. • 425 Lafayette St. (212-239-6200).

★ Knitting Factory
11/20: Superdrag; Pilot to Gunner. 11/22: Black Dice. 11/23–11/24: Smog. 11/25: Hermano; Raging Slab; Supafuzz. 11/26: Metropolitan Klezmer. 11/27: Flag of the Shiners. • 74 Leonard St. (212-219-3055). $.

Makor
11/20: Tom Burris; Hyim Ross. 11/23: Zen Tricksters. 11/24: Lucy Kaplansky. 11/25: Greg Wall. 11/26: "Local Artists Showcase" with Randi Russo; Jason Shain; Whirl; Ripe. • 35 W. 67th St. (212-601-1000).

Maxwell's
11/20: The Moonlighters. 11/21: The Hackensaw Boys; American Altitude; Stew. 11/22: The Stuntcocks; the Blakes; Dave Murphy. 11/23: The Star Spangles; the Black Keys; Stellastarr; Holmes. 11/27: Antigone Rising. • 1039 Washington St., Hoboken, N.J. (201-653-1703).

Mercury Lounge
11/20: The Coral; John Power. 11/21: The Hackensaw Boys; American Altitude; Stew. 11/22: The Stuntcocks; the Blakes; Dave Murphy. 11/23: The Star Spangles; the Black Keys; Stellastarr. 11/27: Antigone Rising. • 217 E. Houston St. (212-260-4700).

Northsix
11/20: Mad Capsule Markets. 11/22: Sonic Boom's Experimental Audio Research. 11/23: Smokey and Miho; Cordero. 11/24: Capitol City Dusters; Aina. • 66 N. 6th St., Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-599-5103).

★ S.O.B.'s
11/20: "Latino Hip-Hop Connection." 11/21: Gil Scott-Heron. 11/22: "Soulcity" presents: Cherrywine with King Britt. 11/23: Brazooca. 11/24: Crash Crew 25th Anniversary. 11/25: Iroko and La Banda. 11/26: Floetry. 11/27: Los Amigos Invisibles. • 204 Varick St. (212-243-4940).

Southpaw
11/21: Elk City. 11/22: Steve Wynn; Jor Hurley. 11/23: Mink Lungs; Longwave. 11/24: John Wesley Harding. 11/25: Life in a Blender. 11/26: Josh Rouse. • 125 Fifth Ave., Park Slope, Brooklyn (718-230-0236).

The Village Underground
11/21: Kelly Willis; Jim Lauderdale. 11/22: The Clarks; Bleu. 11/23: Babloo. 11/27: Eyes Adrift. • 130 W. 3rd St. (212-777-7745).

★ "Warsaw"
11/25: Frank Black and the Catholics. 11/26: Soundtrack of Our Lives. • Polish National Home, 261 Driggs Ave., Williamsburg, Brooklyn (toll free, 866-468-7619).

The World
11/23: Blind Guardian. 11/26: Glassjaw. • Broadway and 43rd St. (212-398-3439).

Clubs

APT
Mondays: "The Minty Fresh Living Room" with Bobbito Garcia. Tuesdays: "iPod Party" with AndrewAndrew. Wednesdays: "Little Ricky's Rib Shack" with Rich Medina. Fridays: "Undressed" with Ursula 1000. Saturdays: Chairman Mao and Citizen Kane. • 419 W. 13th St. (212-414-4245).

Arc
Fridays: "Be Yourself" with progressive-house maestro D.J. Danny Tenaglia. Saturdays: "Made Saturdays," trance and progressive house spun by the likes of Deep Dish. • *6 Hubert St. (212-226-9212).*

Centro-Fly
Thursdays: Eclectic music with "?"; Fridays: "GBH" hosts some of the more adventurous nights at the club with D.J.'s like Ashley Beedle and Marshall Jefferson. • 45 W. 21st St. (212-627-7770).

Club Shelter
Saturdays: Timmy Regisford's long-running deep-house party "Shelter." • Club Shelter, 20 W. 39th St. (212-439-4141). $.

Luxx
Fridays: "Mutants" with D.J. Larry Tee. Saturdays: Tee spins electroclash at "Berliniamsburg." Sundays: "House Music Sessions" with D.J. Raji K and D.J. Gomi. Mondays: "Cult Movie Mondays." Tuesdays: D.J. Miss Guy spins rock and metal at "Hell Bent for Brooklyn." • 256 Grand Street, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-599-1000).

★ The Roxy
Saturdays: The Chelsea boys dance all night to a rotating set of house D.J.'s, including Razor, of Razor and Guido. 11/24: Soft Cell. Its new, Euro poppy album feels like a Marc Almond solo project but go anyway for their innumerable proto-electro classics like "Seedy Films" and "Sex Dwarf." • 515 W. 18th St. (212-627-0404).

Spa
Wednesdays: Rock and roll and electro spun by D.J.'s like Paul Sevigny. Thursdays: A-listers and fashionistas take over with "Ultra" featuring hip-hop, house, and rock and roll spun by D.J.'s Mark Ronson, Lady Bunny, Cameron Douglas. Saturdays: Overdressed Euros line up for "Jet Set" with D.J. Eric LaPeau. • 76 E. 13th St. (212-388-1060).

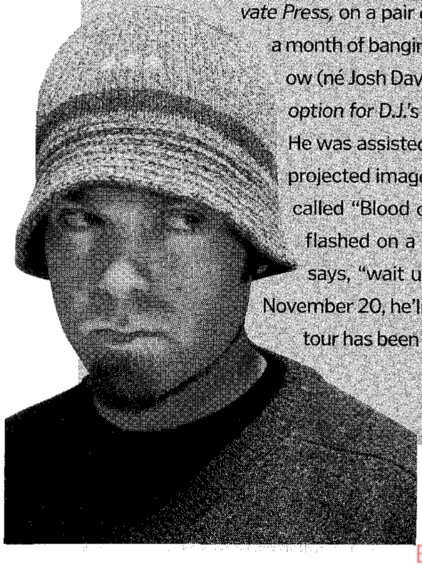
Jazz

Birdland
Mondays from 5:30 to 7:30: Scott Whitfield Jazz Orchestra. Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30: David Ostwald's

Talent

Shadow Knows

It's ironic that some of the most compelling live performances this year came from **DJ Shadow**, who recently re-created the intricately woven funk, electro, and psychedelia of his newest album, *The Private Press,* on a pair of turntables at Irving Plaza and Bowery Ballroom. "It took me a month of banging my head against a wall to get the show together," says Shadow (né Josh Davis), "because I didn't want to use a band. That's always the easy option for D.J.'s who want to step it up." Shadow didn't pull off the feat alone: He was assisted onstage by a collective of artists called Mission Control, who projected images perfectly in sync with his music; for example, during a song called "Blood on the Motorway," cartoonishly chaotic video of car crashes flashed on a screen behind him. "If you thought that was good," Shadow says, "wait until you see the show now—we've re-edited the visuals." On November 20, he'll be hauling his considerable amount of gear to Roseland. "The tour has been the highlight of my year," Shadow says. "In the music business, it's really the only time when you truly own and can reclaim what you do." E.B.



ALL HANDS ON DECKS: DJ Shadow comes to Roseland.

Ground Rules In clubland, promptness is *not* next to godliness; expect shows to start later than promised. Stars (★) indicate our editors' recommendations. $ = cash only.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DONALD CHRISTIE.

Festival

Romany Empire

Tribute concerts usually possess a stultifying museum atmosphere, but the annual Django Reinhardt New York Festival—dedicated to the mid-century Gypsy guitar master—swings with the fury of a jam session dominated by hot young players. This time around, the festival (which runs from November 19 through 24), now in its third year, nicely balances legacy-bearers (Angelo Debarre, Dorado Schmitt) and unexpected guests, like Latin-jazz saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera. (See "Jazz.")

SWING THAT AX: Guitarist Dorado Schmitt at last year's Django Reinhardt New York Festival.

Louis Armstrong Centennial Band. Fridays from 5:30 to 7:30: Lew Anderson's All-American Big Band. Through 11/24: "The Django Reinhardt Festival." • 315 W. 44th St. (212-581-3080).

Blue Note
Through 11/24: Sergio Mendes. • 131 W. 3rd St. (212-475-8592).

Cajun
Mondays and Thursdays: Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks. Tuesdays: Stanley's Washboard Kings. Wednesdays: Eddie Davis and His New Orleans Jazz Band. Fridays: The Canal Street Dixieland Jazz and Blues Band. Saturdays: The Red Onion Jazz Band. Sundays: Peter Eckland Quartet. • 129 Eighth Ave., at 16th St. (212-691-6174).

Iridium
Monday nights, the Les Paul Quartet holds office hours. Through 11/24: The Heath Brothers. Sets Sun.–Thurs. at 8 and 10, with extra midnight set Fri. and Sat. • 1650 Broadway, at 51st St. (212-582-2121).

"Jazz at Lincoln Center" Presents: Terri Lyne Carrington
11/21–11/23 at 8. Former "Arsenio Hall Show" drummer Carrington performs for JLC's "Penthouse" series. • Stanley H. Kaplan Penthouse, 65th St. and Amsterdam Ave. (212-875-5050). $45.

★ "Jazz Insights" Presents: "Giving the Drummer Some"
Weekly music and lecture series hosted by Arnold J. Smith. All sessions are held on Tuesdays from 7:45 to 9:30. 11/26: Louis Hayes. • New School University, 66 W. 12th St. (212-229-5690). $35.

Jazz Standard
Sets at 7:30 and 9:30. Through 11/24: Fred Hersch Quintet. • 116 E. 27th St. (212-576-2232).

Small's
Extremely cozy and open all night, offering after-hours jazz until 8 A.M. It's a candlelit basement whose nightly jams start round about 2 A.M.—the perfect time for a post–Village Vanguard visit (it's right around the corner)—and often involve free beverages and food. • 183 W. 10th St. (212-929-7565).

Sweet Rhythm
11/20–11/21: Abdou M'Boup. 11/25: Quimbombo. 11/26: Sonny Fortune and Rashied Ali. • 88 Seventh Ave. So. (212-255-3626).

Tonic
Sundays: "Klezmer Sundays." 11/20: Marc Ribot. 11/21: Tara Jane O'Neill. 11/22: Ellery Eskelin. 11/23: Ken Vandermark Trio. 11/24: Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys. 11/26: Andrew D'Angelo Quartet. 11/27: Satalah. • 107 Norfolk St. (212-358-7503).

Village Vanguard
Mondays in October: The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra swings on. Through 11/24: Lou Donaldson Quartet. • 178 Seventh Ave. So. (212-255-4037). $.

Comedy

Comedy Cellar
Through 11/24: Colin Quinn; Tom Papa; Robert Kelly; Godfrey; Jim Norton. • 117 MacDougal St. (212-254-3480).

Surf Reality
First Friday of every month: "The Vim Variety Show." First Saturday of every month: "The Carmen Mofongo Show." • 172 Allen St. (212-673-4182).

Cabaret

★ Algonquin Hotel
11/24–11/25: Jane Monheit. • 59 W. 44th St. (212-840-6800).

★ Cafe Carlyle
Mondays through 12/30: Eddy Davis New Orleans Jazz Band featuring Woody Allen. Tuesdays through Saturdays through 12/31: Bobby Short. • Carlyle Hotel, Madison Ave. at 76th St. (212-744-1600).

Danny's Skylight Room
Saturdays in November: Blossom Dearie. • 346 W. 46th St. (212-265-8130).

★ Feinstein's at the Regency
Through 11/23: Kathie Lee Gifford. $30 food and beverage minimum for all shows. • 540 Park Ave., at 61st St. (212-307-4100 or 212-339-4095).

FireBird Café
Through 12/28: Chris Barrett performs Wednesdays through Saturdays. • 365 W. 46th St. (212-586-0244). $15 food and drink minimum.

Judy's
11/20: Colm Reilly in "Bein' Green: A Collection of Irish Songs." 11/21: Carol Shedlin in "Fresh As a Daisy." 11/22: Anthony Santelmo Jr. 11/23: Judy Kreston and David Lahm in "A Brand New Us." 11/24: Jeanne Beauvais in "And Then the Corks Go Pop!" 11/25: Kathy Kaefer with D. Jay Bradley. 11/26: Craig Zurlini in "Goodfella." • 169 Eighth Ave., nr. 18th St. (212-929-5410).

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID ALTMAN.

cue

TheMix

Edited by Boris Kachka

Radio Highlights

Django Reinhardt Festival
A live broadcast from Birdland features a guitar-heavy jazz group paying tribute to the Gypsy strummer and the all-guitar band he founded in thirties Paris. • 11/22 at 9 P.M. WBGO, 88.3 FM.

Judge Leslie Crocker Snyder
The Manhattan Supreme Court justice discusses her new memoir, *25 to Life*, with the host of "The Lewis Burke Frumkes Show." • 11/24 at 8 P.M. WPAT, 930 AM.

Lectures and Panels

"Behind the Editor's Desk"
Elizabeth Law, associate publisher of Viking's children's-books division, dispenses ten tips to help would-be writers navigate the publishing world. • 11/20 at noon. Makor, 35 W. 67th St. (212-415-5500); $12.

Lorna Simpson
The contemporary photographer shows and discusses her black-and-white shots, which combine art and journalism as well as word and image. • 11/20 at 7 P.M. The Studio Museum, 144 W. 125th St. (212-864 4500); free.

John Felstiner on Neruda, Celan, and Rilke
A renowned scholar and translator lectures on three of the twentieth century's most influential poets. Rare recording from Celan and Neruda will be played. • 11/20 at 7 P.M. Poets House, 72 Spring St. (212-431-7920); $7.

Danny Meyer
The extremely successful Union Square Cafe restaurateur talks about cooking for others and explores his Jewish roots with Rabbi Jen Krause. • 11/20 at 7:30 P.M. 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $25.

"Salvador Dali's Dream of Venus"
Ingrid Schaffner discusses her new art book about the surrealist's bizarre and charming installation for the 1939 World's Fair. • 11/21 at noon. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave., at 51st St. (212-935-3595); $15.

Mark Doty on the Arts in Times of Crisis
The last of a three-part lecture series on artists' responses to the latest world crises invites poet Doty to read from new work and discuss world events. • 11/21 at 6 P.M. The New School, 66 W. 12th St. (212-229-5488); free.

"Beyond the Pale"
Benjamin Nathans, the author of *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter in Late Imperial Russia*, gives a lecture on Russian Jewish modernization at the turn of the last century. • 11/21 at 7:30 P.M. Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, 15 W. 16th St. (212-606-8200 for required reservations); free.

"New York City and the New Deal"
Mike Wallace—author of *A New Deal for New York*—sets the tone for a daylong conference on the Roosevelt legislation, its legacy, and its effectiveness as a model for today's New York. Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Alan Brinkley, and possibly Chuck Schumer will speak. • 11/22, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave., at 34th St. (212-817-8215 for required pre-registration); free.

Queen Noor
Having penned a new book, *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*, the Jordan royal talks to Charlie Rose about her country and the Middle East. • 11/24 at 7:30 P.M. 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $22.

George Orwell and Society
Recent Orwell examiner Christopher Hitchens talks to Simon Schama, James Miller, Peter Stansky, and Bill Buford about Orwell's continuing influence on world politics and society. • 11/25 at 7 P.M. Wollman Auditorium, Cooper Union, 51 Astor Pl. (212-334-1660, ext. 107); $10.

Israel Horovitz
The veteran playwright talks to former CNN correspondent Cynthia Tornquist about his new play, *My Old Lady*, and his long career. • 11/25 at 7:30 P.M. Makor, 35 W. 67th St. (212-601-1000); $15.

The Written Word

Paul Auster
The famous Brooklyn author talks about his most recent novel, *The Book of Illusions*. • 11/20 at 6:30 P.M. The New-York Historical Society, 2 W. 77th St. (212-873-3400); $6.

Louis Menand
For a library series called "Personal Passions," the author talks about an important influence, *The Cat in the Hat*. Later in the week he reads from his Pulitzer Prize–winning *The Metaphysical Club*. • Lecture: 11/20 at 6:30 P.M. New York Public Library, Fifth Ave. at 42nd St. (212-930-0855); $10. Reading: 11/22 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

"Dorothy Parker's Elbow"
Contributors to this collection of writings on tattoos read their work and other excerpts. (See box.) • 11/20 at 7 P.M. Housing Works, 126 Crosby St. (212-334-3324); free.

Annping Chin
The prominent historian talks about her new novel, *Four Sisters of Hofei*, which draws on China's cultural secrets. • 11/20 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

Igal Sarna
The Israeli journalist reads from his story collection, *The Man Who Fell Into a Puddle*. • 11/21 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

Brett Berk and Victor LaValle
Berk reads from new work, LaValle from his first novel, *The Ecstatic*. • 11/21 at 7:30 P.M. Halcyon, 227 Smith St., Brooklyn (718-260-WAXY); free.

Elissa Schappell, Dawn Raffel, Louisa Ermelino
Three quite different woman novelists read from recent work—Schappell from her contribution to *The Bitch in the House*, Raffel from *Carrying the Body*, and Ermelino from *The Sisters Mallone*. • 11/21 at 8 P.M. National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park So. (212-475-3424); free, jacket required.

Michael Crichton
The best-seller factory signs copies of his latest, *Prey*. • 11/25 at 1 P.M. 600 Fifth Ave., at 48th St. (212-765-0592); free.

Harold Bloom
The prolific public intellectual presents his latest tome, *Genius: A Mosaic of One Hundred Exemplary Creative Minds*. • 11/25 at 7 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 33 E. 17th St. (212-253-0810); free.

John D. Freyer
Freyer discusses *All My Life for Sale*—which documents the auctioning off of all his worldly possessions on eBay—twice this week. • 11/25 at 7 P.M. Barnes & Noble, 675 Sixth Ave., at 22nd St. (212-727-1227); free. 11/26 at 7:30 P.M. Makor, 35 W. 67th St. (212-601-1000); $12, $15 at the door.

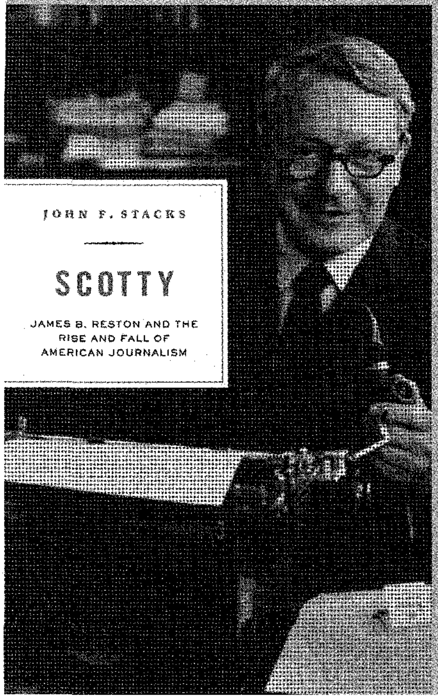
Mark Kulansky
The *Salt* author samples from his new book, *Choice Cuts: A Savory Selection of Food Writing From Around the World and Throughout History*. • 11/25 at 7:30 P.M. Barnes &

In Print

In Different *Times*

"When I got into journalism, Reston was at the top of the heap," says John Stacks, retired *Time* editor and author of **Scotty** (Little, Brown; $29.95). "He was who you really wanted to be." James "Scotty" Reston, the gray eminence of the Gray Lady, was the journalist JFK opened up to (off the record, of course) about the drubbing Khrushchev gave him in 1961, and the only reporter regarded by both the Sulzbergers and the *Post's* Grahams as virtual family. Access was everything. But the real story develops when Reston, who'd left Washington for a brief, unhappy stint as managing editor in New York, returned to the Beltway in the early Nixon years. "He was very eager to get back to the old way of operating," says Stacks, "but the rules had changed." And Henry Kissinger—Reston's new confidant—was no Jack Kennedy. As Vietnam intensified and Watergate exploded, Reston swallowed Kissinger's spin. "The newer role models were Woodward and Bernstein, or at least the movie version of them," says Stacks. "Reston had become the model of who you didn't want to be: someone who had been seduced and used by power." Stacks, for his part, prefers the trust and coziness of the old era to the cynicism that's led to Monicagate and beyond. "If Scotty"—who died in 1995—"were to come back from the grave, he'd be appalled," says Stacks. "What the press, and therefore the public, gets to know about the government is diminishing by the day, and not even Reston could crack that barricade." B.K.

THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER: Scotty Reston held all the cards in Washington—until the game changed.

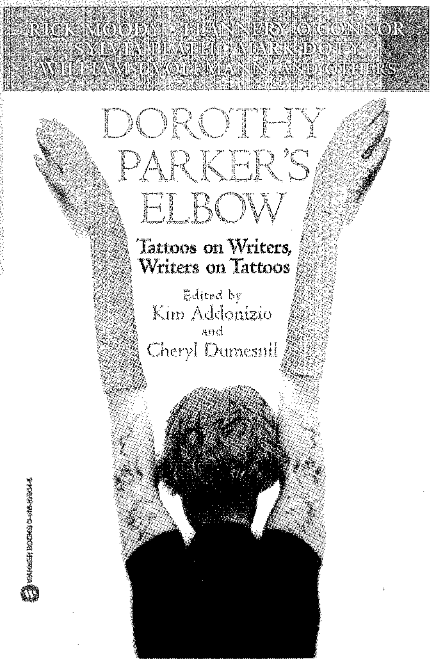

JOHN F. STACKS
SCOTTY
JAMES B. RESTON AND THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICAN JOURNALISM

Happening

Under Their Skin

Anthologies have lately shed their freshman-survey-course stigma in favor of hipness, with subjects (misanthropy, Jewish sex, "nonrequired reading") that sound like Brown University electives. So what's surprising about **Dorothy Parker's Elbow** (Warner; $13.95) isn't that anthologizers have finally caught up with the ultimate Bobo transgression—tattoos—but that so many iconic writers (Plath, Melville, Kafka) addressed the subject long before it made it to the mall. Contributors, including Darcey Steinke, Seth Mnookin, and co-editor Kim Addonizio, will read their own stories, as well as others', at Housing Works on November 20. And yes, Parker herself (not excerpted here) had a characteristically coy little star. (See "The Written Word.")

INK-STAINED WRETCHES: At Housing Works, November 20.


RICK MOODY • FLANNERY O'CONNOR
SYLVIA PLATH • MARK DOTY •
WILLIAM T. VOLLMANN, AND OTHERS
DOROTHY PARKER'S ELBOW
Tattoos on Writers, Writers on Tattoos
Edited by
Kim Addonizio
and
Cheryl Dumesnil

Noble, 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (212-362-8835); free.

Miss Manners
The columnist otherwise known as Judith Martin talks about her new book, *Star-Spangled Manners, In Which Miss Manners Defends American Etiquette.* • 11/25 at 8:15 P.M. 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $22.

John Ashbery and J. D. McClatchy
Two revered American poets read mostly from recent work—Ashbery from his collection *Chinese Whispers*, McClatchy from *Hazmat*. • 11/25 at 8:15 P.M. 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $16.

Special Events

Tours

"The Kennedys and the Roosevelts"
Marking the anniversary of the JFK assassination, a tour of New York sites plumbs the connection between the city and the two dynastic families. • 11/23 and 11/24 at 1:45 P.M. (212-465-3331 for reservations and meeting place); $12.50.

Sephardic Kings Highway
Myra Alperson leads a culinary and historical tour of the grand Brooklyn thoroughfare now home to a growing Sephardic community. • 11/24 at 11 A.M. 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. (212-415-5500); $22.

Benefits

"A Taste of Wall Street"
The second annual sampling from top downtown restaurants—with Drew Nieporent as co-chair and *New York* among the sponsors—highlights the vitality of Manhattan below Canal and benefits the local group Wall Street Rising. • 11/18 at 6 P.M. Regent Wall Street Hotel Ballroom, 55 Wall St. (212-509-0300); $150, $175 day-of.

"Songwriters in the Round"
Bernie Taupin, the lyricist for Elton John, hosts an intimate evening of discussions and performances in which Jewel, Matchbox 20's Rob Thomas, and others reveal their songwriting methods. Proceeds benefit the VH1 Save the Music Foundation. • 11/20 at 7:30 P.M. The Bottom Line, 15 W. 4th St. (212-846-7416); $750.

YWCA Salute 2002
The organization honors women achievers Ruth Reichl, Betsy Gotbaum, Carol Bellamy, and others at a benefit luncheon. • 11/21 at noon. The Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, at 45th St. (212-675-9474); $200 to $2,500.

"Bringing the World to Brooklyn"
The Brooklyn Public Library's sixth annual fund-raising dinner features a raffle of books, ballet tickets, and museum memberships as well as appearances by novelist Terry McMillan and jazz legend Max Roach. • 11/21 at 6:30 P.M. Grand Lobby, Central Library, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn (718-369-9385, ext. 153); $300 and up.

Ambassador's Ball 2002
As the General Assembly closes, New York shows its respect for the United Nations with a gala, bestowing the Citizen of the World Award on Senator Roy Goodman and Marjorie Tiven, the city's commissioner for the international organization. • 11/22 at 7 P.M. Pierre Hotel, Fifth Ave. at 61st St. (212-963-8753); $350 to $500.

Other Events

Grand Central Holiday Light Show and Fair
The terminal's annual fair offers a wide variety of gift bargains while the light show under the starry dome kicks it up a notch—its six 3D projections chosen from competing projects by multimedia animators. • Fair: 11/19 through 12/24, Lights through 12/31. Grand Central Station, Park Ave. at 42nd St. (grandcentralterminal.com); free.

Beaujolais Nouveau Fête 2002
The young annual wine has arrived. Its producers will be on hand to serve the bouquet to the tune of Edith Piaf and other crowd-pleasers. • 11/21 at 6:30 P.M. French Institute Alliance Française, 22 E. 60th St. (212-355-6160); $25.

Connoisseur's Antiques Fair
Though the show is new, its exhibitors are antique-show veterans. So come get your Roman antiquities and Medieval tapestries. • 11/22 until 8 P.M.; 11/23 until 7 P.M.; 11/24 until 5 P.M. Gramercy Park Armory, Lexington Ave. at 26th St. (212-604-2670); $15.

Sports

Most Gifted Wrapper Contest
If figure-skating and rhythmic gymnastics are Olympic sports, why not gift-wrapping? Four hand-picked amateurs will be judged on flair, speed, and style as they compete against pros for $10,000. • 11/22, 8:30 to 10:15 A.M. Rockefeller Center, Concourse Level (212-679-6600); free.

Solutions to last week's puzzles

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Kids

Edited by Susan Avery

Events

For Children

Thanks, Turkey
The Queens Zoo wants us to love our turkeys. (See box.) • 11/23 and 11/24 from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.; Queens Zoo, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, 53-51 111th St. (718-271-1500 or queenszoo.com); $2.50 grown-ups, $1.25 seniors, 50 cents for kids 3–12, free for youngers.

Eat, Eat
. . . at the Hanukkah Cooking Demonstration. (See box.) • 11/24 from 2 to 4 P.M.; Museum of Jewish Heritage, 18 First Pl., Battery Park City (enter Wagner Park at the corner of West St. and Battery Pl.; 212-968-1800 or mjhnyc.org); $7 grown-ups, $5 students and seniors, free to kids 5 and younger.

Thankful in the Bronx
Celebrate an early Thanksgiving in Crotona Park. Revelers will do holiday crafts projects, including making a rag doll and ornaments. Games on tap are a turkey trot and Thanksgiving trivia (is there anything trivial about Thanksgiving?). • 11/23 beginning at 1 P.M.; Crotona Park Picnic Area near Indian Lake, Charlotte St. and Crotona Park East, the Bronx (718-378-2061); free.

Theater Judaica
Night Kitchen Radio Theater presents *Pincus & the Pig: A Klezmer Tale for Children*. Maurice Sendak's illustrations of his new version of *Peter and the Wolf* will be presented in a slide-show format, with music provided by the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra. The program also includes two other kid-friendly skits: *The Flying Latke* and *Hello, Hello God*. At the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. For kids 6 and older. • 11/30 at 7 P.M.; Jewish Community Center, 334 Amsterdam Ave., nr. 76th St. (646-505-5708); $25.

Fowl Decor
A walk-in workshop on decorative Thanksgiving arts-and-crafts projects can be had at Creatability, the Upper East Side playspace. • Through 11/24, Monday through Friday 11:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.; Creatability, 500 E. 88th St. (212-535-4033); $20.

Talking Turkey
Discover interesting facts about our seasonal feathered friend at the Alley Pond Environmental Center through hands-on activities such as quill writing and feather zipping. Meet Tom Turkey and some featherless friends. Join in on a sing-along, take a nature walk, and have a snack. • 12/1 from 10 A.M. to noon for 3- and 4-year-olds; 12/1 from 1 to 3 P.M. for 4- and 5-year-olds; 11/24 from 1 to 3 P.M. for 5- and 6-year-olds; and 11/23 from 1 to 3 P.M. for 6- to 8-year-olds; Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd., Douglaston (718-229-4000); $16.

Sleepover at the Plaza
Any sleepover is fun, but this one is hosted by the queen of mischief herself, Eloise. The Eloise Sleepover Weekend at the Plaza goes from Friday to Sunday and includes crashing on the floor of a suite, watching videos, an Eloise tour, a tea party at the Palm Court with PB&J, hot chocolate, and ice-cream sundaes, and a private shopping trip to FAO Schwarz. Every kid goes home with an Eloise gift, compliments of the Young Plaza Ambassador's program. On 11/29 and 11/30 from 2 to 4 P.M., Eloise artist Hilary Knight will sign copies of his newest book, *Eloise Takes a Bawth*. • The Plaza, Fifth Ave. and Central Park So. (212-546-5495 or plazaypa.com); call for prices.

Potter Parent Secrets
We typically don't mention movies here, but this one requires our two cents. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* is definitely worth the price of the ticket. But parents beware: This one is way scarier, and gorier, than the first. Be prepared to share your lap. (See "Cue: Movies.")

Gingerbread Menorah
They'll supply the ingredients and template for a gingerbread menorah. You supply the child to make it. Kitchenette Uptown does a mini-discussion on the meaning of the Festival of Lights, along with traditional music, followed by a session with the sweet stuff. Go home with goodies. • 11/21 and 11/22 from 3:45 to 5 P.M.; Kitchenette Uptown, 1272 Amsterdam Ave., nr. 122nd St. (212-531-7600); $30.

Leaping to Broadway
Leaping from the pages of the children's classic is *A Year With Frog and Toad*. This new musical at the New Victory Theater follows animal friends through a year of amphibious anecdotes, along with a live band. Mark Linn-Baker plays Toad. • Through 12/1; New Victory Theater, 209 W. 42nd St. (212-239-6200 or newvictory.org); $10–$30.

Frisbee for Fluffy
The Liberty Flyers Dog & Disc Club shows off its chops with spectacular Frisbee catches and retrievals in a show choreographed to high-energy music at the Liberty Science Center. Dog owners will even learn some at-home training tips and receive paw-to-graph giveaways. • 11/30 at 1 and 4 P.M.; Liberty Science Center, Jersey City, N.J. (coming from the city, take the N.J. Tpk. to exit 14B) (201-200-1000 or lsc.org); $10 grown-ups, $8 seniors and kids.

A Nu Play
The *mishegoss* continues with the Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre presenting the *Mazldiker Mystery Tour*. • Through 11/29 at 11 A.M.; also 11/29 at 10 A.M. and 12/25 at 11 A.M.; PCMH Theatre, 344 W. 36th St. (212-307-4100 or folksbiene.org); $18 grown-ups, $15 kids up to age 11.

Back in the Olden Days
Take a theatrical time-machine journey with an inventor through generations of America's exciting history. In *History Time Henry*, stops include the writing of the Constitution, the suffragettes' movement, Rosa Parks's bus ride, and the first U.S. landing on the moon. Original songs and audience participation are part of the show. From Vital Children's Theatre Company. Reservations suggested. • Through 11/23; Vital Children's Theatre Company, 432 W. 42nd St., third fl. (212-592-4508 or vitaltheatre.org); $14.

Einstein Babies
Learn about the theories and relativities of Albert Einstein, the most famous scientist of the twentieth century, at a new exhibit of the American Museum of Natural History. Follow the man as he recognizes the speed of light, discovers that energy and mass are related, and realizes that space and time are not absolute. Lots more on Einstein's political and social perspectives, as well as a look at his personal life. 12/14 at 10:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. is "Einstein for Everyone," where kids conduct experiments and learn about black holes. • American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West and 79th St. (212-769-5100 or amnh.org); $12 grown-ups, $7 kids; classes are $25.

Inside the Artist's Studio
The Children's Museum of Manhattan is going all out on its latest exhibit: "Art Inside Out," featuring contemporary artists William Wegman, Elizabeth Murray, and Fred Wilson. Interactivity abounds. • Through 12/31/03; Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St. (212-721-1223 or cmom.org); $6.

Tell Me a Story
Check out the Storytelling Series at the Provincetown Playhouse: 11/24 is *Where in the World Is Henry?;* and 12/1 is *Fiesta Feminina*, which celebrates the girls of Mexican folklore. Reservations suggested. • All performances are at 3 P.M.; Provincetown Playhouse, 133 MacDougal St. (212-998-5867); free.

Just for Parents

Mom Does Movies
Moms with infants are considered lucky if they see one first-run film within the baby's first year of life. Now new moms are getting together every Tuesday morning, with babies in tow, to see the latest flicks. Loew's on 34th Street accommodates ReelMoms with dimmed theater lighting so parents can see their babies, a lower volume allowing junior to sleep, changing tables, play areas, and healthy snacks. • Through 12/3, Tuesdays at 10 A.M., film starts at 11 A.M.; Loew's 34th Street, 312 W. 34th St. (urbanbaby.com); $5. Babies are free.

Celebrations

Gobble It Up

YOUNG TURKS: Just hanging around the coop, waiting to be adored: The Queens Zoo holds a turkey-appreciation program.

If you were a turkey, the place you'd want to be this month is the Queens Zoo. A full **Talkin' Turkey** weekend is planned to honor the seasonal bird, including a meet-and-greet in the zoo's giant geodesic dome, a lesson on how to make gobble sounds, a biologist's-eye view of the bird Ben Franklin nominated to represent the United States, feathery arts-and-crafts sessions, and Tom Turkey storytelling. Hmmm. Are we setting the kids up for a vegetarian Thanksgiving? "We just want people to appreciate the animal," explains zoo spokeswoman Diana Heide. "If they become vegetarians, then that's what happens." On the other side of the East River, no one need think twice about gobbling up latkes and sufganiyot (traditional Hanukkah jelly doughnuts). Chef Mitchell Davis does a kid-friendly **Hanukkah Cooking Demonstration** at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, serving the traditional oil-fried goodies that commemorate the holiday's origins. Nosh on. (See "Events.") S.A.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HAMILTON SMITH/CORBIS.

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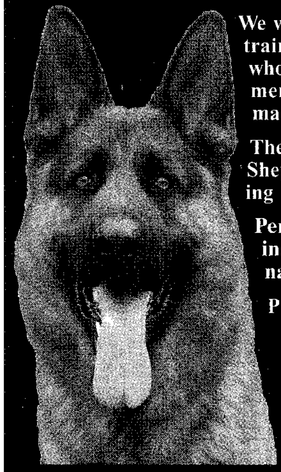

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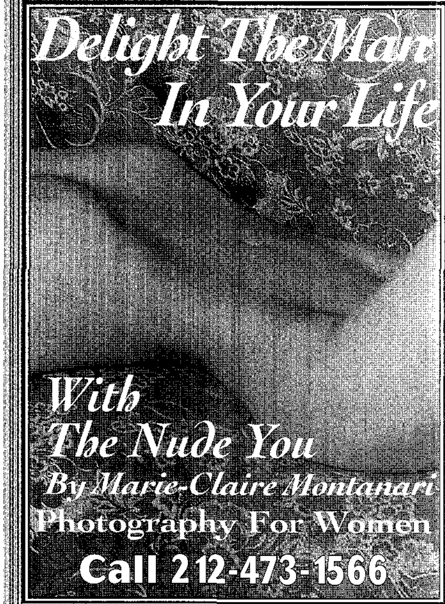

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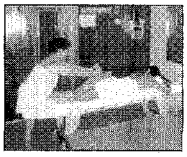

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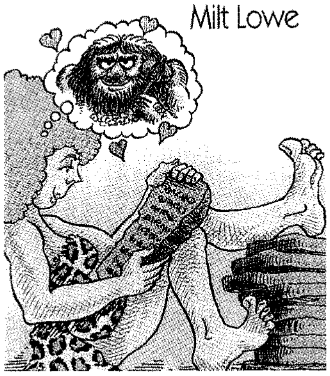

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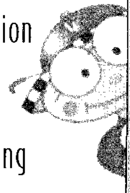

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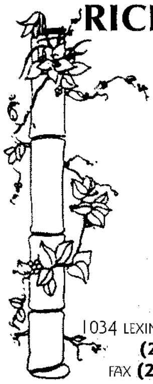

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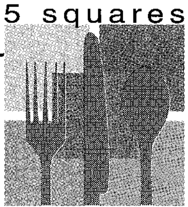

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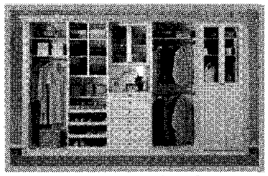

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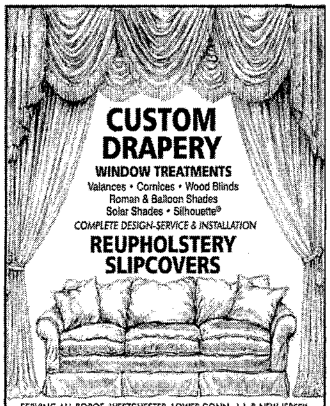

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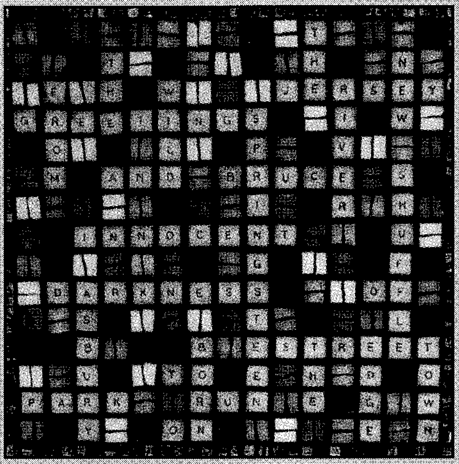

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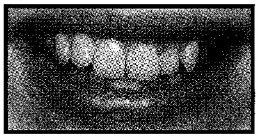

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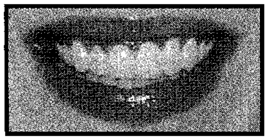

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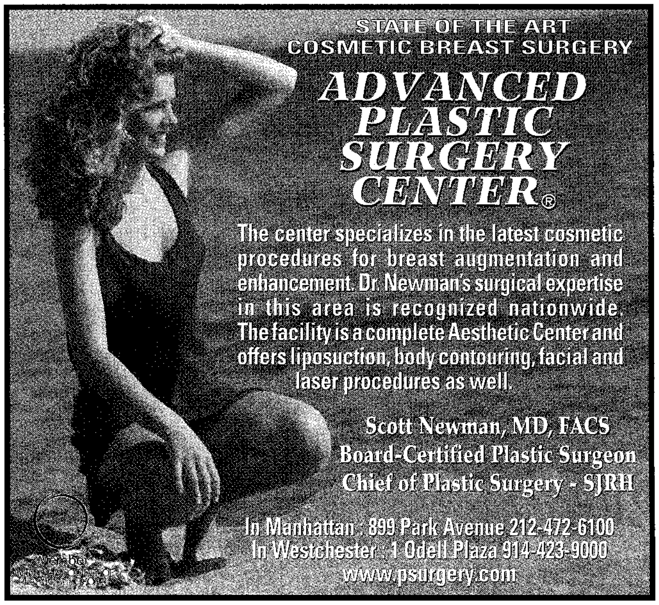

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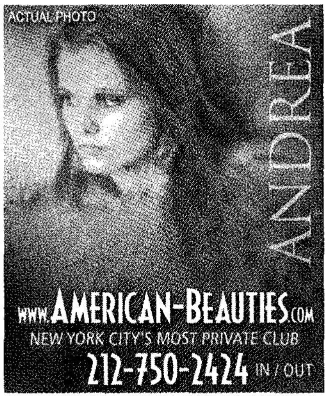
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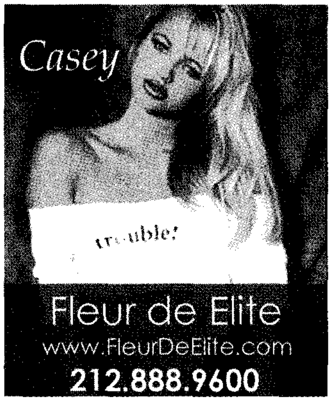
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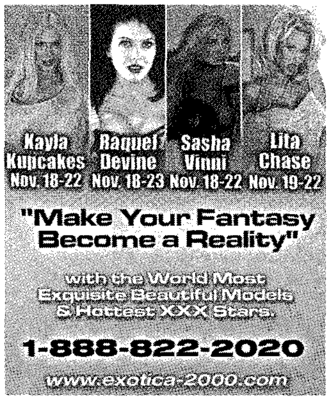
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Dear Asian Girl—Due to a series of flukes, miscues and so many missed opportunities that I'm permanently bruised from kicking myself, we haven't yet managed to meet. So, please view this little ad not as a facile, facetious come-on, but a heartfelt plea to destiny to set things right once and for all. Sitting here typing is a strikingly handsome, 5'10", 175-lb, 37-year-old, never-married, commitment-friendly Jewish guy. When not cursing fate, I'm running my own business, traveling, working out and eating Beluga caviar on Tostitos by the glow of the TV. Like all great, misunderstood geniuses, I have an abiding faith that after all the trials and tribulations of this shopworn swinging single's life, a gorgeous and ethereal Asian woman (24-34) is going to sweep me off my feet and redesign my wardrobe. In return, I'll keep things funny, fun and interesting forever. So, if it's you I keep missing, please send me a note and photo. heartfeltplea@aol.com 3309 ✉☎

Passionate Woman—I laugh, I love, I cook, I sail. Did I mention good-looking, leggy, with a great smile and sense of humor to match? Fun, creative professional wants to share city/country passions with tall, 47-plus, warm, secure man. Photo, please. 3310 ✉☎

Wanted: Great Boyfriend—Sensual, smart, very successful Bergen County brunette (Jewish, not religious), with a loving heart, a warm personality and killer curves, seeks intelligent, passionate, successful, upscale professional mensch, late 40s to mid 50s, for romance...and more. 3322 ✉☎ JersieCutie@aol.com

Gay White Male—37, witty, fit, Tom Ford look-alike, very social, 5'9", 155, seeks slim gay male under 5'9", with dark features, great smile and sense of humor, who is a good kisser and likes to be busy/make plans. My passions: NYC, restaurants, Hamptons, travel, arts, R&B, current events and great films/actors. Any race okay. 3296 ✉☎

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ISSUE DATE: 12/23-12/30
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Love To Ski?—Read on. I'm 23, a recent college grad, Christian (nonreligious), long blond hair, green eyes, tall (6') and slim. I've been told that I look like Julia Stiles. I'm looking for a single (no kids), professional, tall (over 6'), athletic guy under 35 for adventures in skiing, hiking, gourmet cooking and traveling... If it works out, maybe marriage and kids of our own. Photo/phone/email address necessary for response. 3301 ✉

Warm, Vivacious, Trim—43, mother of toddler, would like to meet an intelligent, funny, unpretentious, well-rounded fellow. Note/photo, will exchange. 3314 ✉

Nice Package Inside/Out—This pretty Park Avenue professional who's fit/flexible, desires a 53ish, friendly/fit/focused Jewish mensch. 3295 ✉☎

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The rumors are ***confirmed*** *that early last week NYC's* ***most successful matchmaker Janis Spindel*** took her little black book live, giving singles their first ever **Internet dating service** from a real live professional Matchmaker. Spindel's had her head to the hearts and minds of single, divorced and *widowed men and women for the past 8 years.* ***Just ask the 301 happily married couples***. Our sources tell us the Matchmaker has been a busy bee in her laboratory of love developing the perfect formula for combining her one-on-service with the use of the Internet, accumulating the most desirable men *and women in the country* ***since 1994***.

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Well there you have it ladies and gentlemen. With the help of a little modern technology and a good old-fashioned matchmaker, winter may not be so bleak! **So get your free introductory offer today. www.janisspindelmatchmaker.com** Any questions call: **(212) 987-1582**.

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So if this might be you, and you're dreaming of making your fairy tale wishes come true, drop cupid a line, you never know what you might find. The kingdom will rejoice and all will sing to hear your wedding bells ring!

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Erudite, Sophia Loren Look-Alike—Internationally known artist - enjoys all things, spiritual and evolved, Jewish. A lady, elegant, exotic and sensual, a complete woman. Seeking my spiritual partner, who is solvent, lives out loud, traveled, "A Man", who's exceptional and looking for an exceptional woman. Please be fun, relaxed and open to all the possibilities, 45-63. Photo a must. godessxlife@aol.com 3317 ✉☎

Our NJ Mom—Is very pretty, smart, a successful professional who looks too young to be a (Jewish) grandma! She is upbeat, loving and fun. She has everything but the right partner: an active, accomplished man of integrity, 55-65, worthy of her trust, respect, affection and more. 3279 ✉☎ with photo.

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53-Year-Old Ex-Model—Professional black woman wants to be cherished. Seeks professional, financially independent, humble man, 48-60 years old, over 6' tall, of any color. Don't let distance spoil a great mutual opportunity. 3323 ✉

Successful Entrepreneur—38, very attractive, athletic, intelligent, seeks woman, 22-38, very attractive, intelligent, adventurous, spiritual, for world travel, relationship. Photo. Asdktm99@aol.com 3316 ✉☎

Attractive Black Lady—Looking for a male, 40 plus, who is secure but sensitive. Nonsmoker, please. Photo a must. 3294 ✉☎

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$1.99 EACH MINUTE. TOUCH-TONE PHONE ONLY. THIS SERVICE IS FOR ADULTS 18 YEARS OR OLDER.

You can now call ☎ as well as write ✉ Strictly Personals advertisers. Look for ads with ☎ to hear a message personally recorded by the advertiser and leave a private message of your own. Advertisers' messages in this issue are accessible for 4 weeks beyond issue's cover date.

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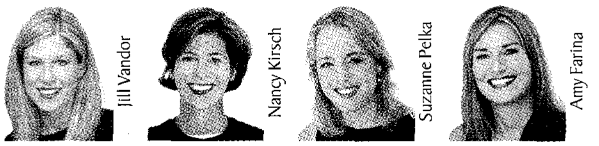
Helen Hunt Look-Alike—Petite, mid 30s, looking for that special someone to share my life. I'm based in the Northeast and would like to spend some of winter in the South. Love to travel, cook, read. Enjoy all cultural venues. Will come to NYC area to meet you. Nonsmokers only. I am kind, loyal and willing to be devoted to the right man. 3297 ✉☎

Antarctica, Anyone?—Educated, multifaceted, attractive single male unexpectedly seeks adventurous, very intelligent female for Christmas/New Year's 17-day cruise to Antarctica and the Falkland Islands on ice-strengthened small ship, with shore landings and expert lecturers. This is not for the bored, bashful, unimaginative or fainthearted. If interested, call for info. 3290 ✉☎

Pretty As A Picture—Smart as a whip, warm as a puppy. Young, happy, single, Jewish professional lady seeks one single, Jewish professional, cultured, secure man, 41-49, who loves living, laughing and loving. 3300 ✉☎

Sage (PhD/175 IQ)—Seeks (212) female friend/lover. POB 539, NY, NY 10101

Mensch And The City—Fit, fun, single Jewish female seeks menschy guy, 36-48, to enjoy life and plan a future. Lawyer, 38, wants someone to join her for running, long walks, theater, movies and travel. Photo/note appreciated. 3319 ✉



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May-December Romance—Physically fit, professional white male, 38. Seeks slim, attractive female, 45-59. 3284 ✉☎

Male, 47—Sensitive, intelligent, emotionally in-touch, communicative, great sense of humor - seeks a woman with similar qualities. 3292 ✉☎

Very Attractive Blond—36, in fashion business, seeks an intelligent, white, financially independent male, 35-50, to spend some quality time with - and possible long-term relationship. Enjoy theater, movies, restaurants, dancing and cafes as well as quiet nights at home. Photo/note. 3313 ✉☎ dkr322@yahoo.com

Attractive NYC Man—47, who loves the West, seeks attractive Western gal, 30s, who loves NYC. A big city life @aol.com 3305 ✉☎

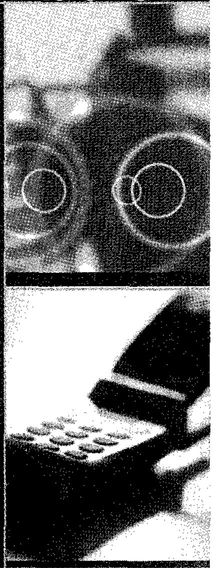
Affluent, Educated, Handsome—Gentleman, 45, seeks beautiful blond for enjoyment of life's finest opportunities and possible relationship. 3318 ✉☎

Vibrant Lady Of Wit—And common sense, seeks educated gentleman, 62-74, for eclectic adventures, lasting friendship. 3302 ✉

Stylish Renaissance Woman—Christian, Caucasian, Ivy grad, widowed, seeking committed, educated, successful gentleman, 57-65, from (212), (914) or (203), to share interests in science, politics, classical music, opera, antiques, sophisticated home cooking, wines, beach and mountain walking. musicmountain1@yahoo.com 3321 ✉

Dream Woman—Beautiful blond, green eyes, dazzling smile, late 50"s,film and theatrical producer with Warren Beatty and Off-Broadway musical rock show, seeks early-50s, handsome, successful actor/musician or professional/businessman who loves the arts. Photo, please. 3324 ✉☎

Green-Eyed PhD—49, 5'9", 170 lbs, divorced, no kids. Athletic, funny, smart, hip and handsome. Liberal and intellectually adventurous. Seeking sensitive, sophisticated, psychologically minded woman to ride off into the sunset. Photo. 3311 ✉☎



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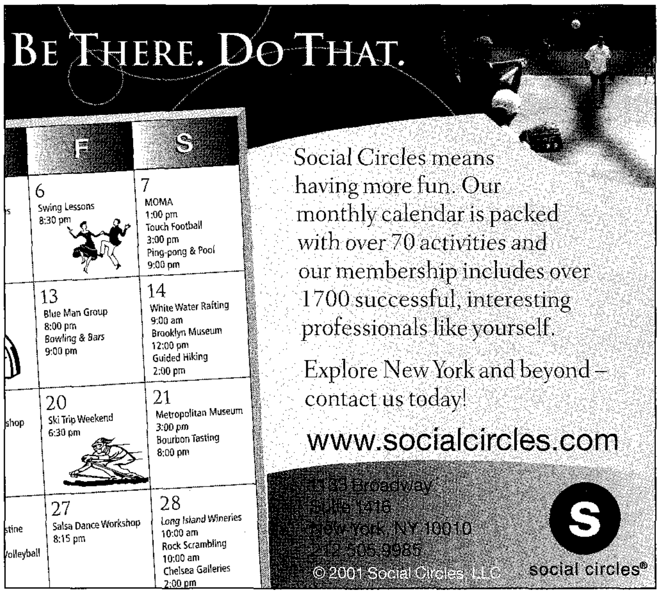
Successful Professional—White male, 38, physically fit, athletic. Seeks well-educated, slim female, 24-37. 3320 ✉☎

Beautiful Blond With Herpes—Seeks intelligent, understanding male. I'm 39, 5'6", intelligent and in great shape. nygrl516@aol.com 3280 ✉☎

Sweet Brown Eyes—Sexy professional seeks mensch professional, 50s. 3308 ✉☎

Bella Donna—Attractive lady, 50, 5'5", 130 lbs, educated, cultured, successful business, seeks gentleman who loves opera - and with the same quality. NYC. Photo. 3306 ✉



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13 Blue Man Group 8:00 pm Bowling & Bars 9:00 pm	14 White Water Rafting 9:00 am Brooklyn Museum 12:00 pm Guided Hiking 2:00 pm
20 Ski Trip Weekend 6:30 pm	21 Metropolitan Museum 3:00 pm Bourbon Tasting 8:00 pm
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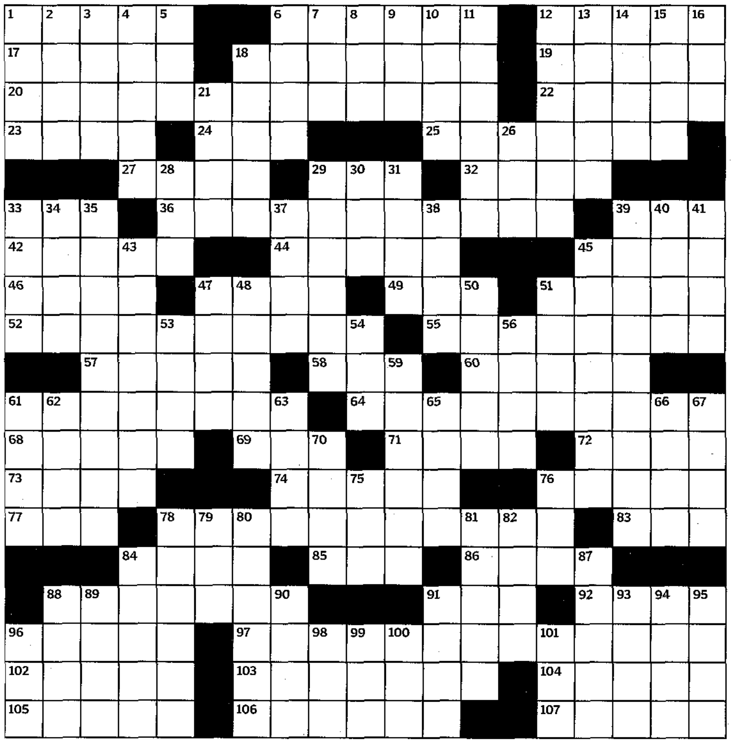


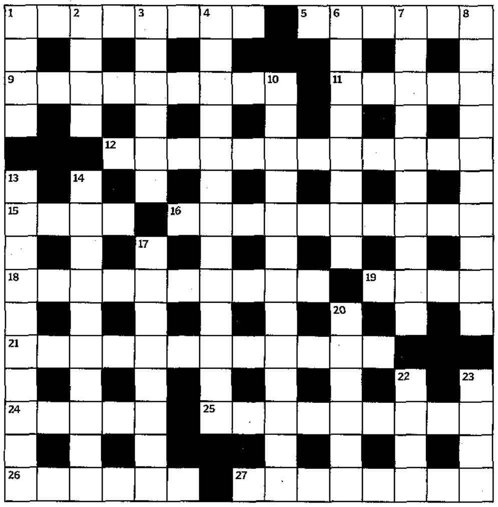
ACROSS

1 Nun's attire
6 Go
12 Taj ——
17 Doing a solo
18 Two-continent land mass
19 Get out of bed
20 PRANK IN ACTION
22 MINED
23 Place for a banjo, in a song
24 Most junk mail
25 Insistent requests
27 After-bath garb
29 Restorative resort
32 "—— Camera" (origin of "Cabaret")
33 Neither's correlative
36 RUNNER AT BOG
39 Mystery-story pioneer
42 Video-game company
44 Disney's "Little Mermaid"
45 Gold overlay
46 Baseball's "Schoolboy"
47 Chinese: prefix
49 —— Lingus (carrier to Dublin)
51 Brando's last Paris dance
52 ADDER'S NEST
55 LEARN CUE
57 Trojan War epic
58 Jack-tar
60 Edna Ferber's Pulitzer novel
61 STUN TECH
64 CRADLE RAID
68 Ancient Aegean region
69 "Dig in!"
71 Skater's milieu
72 Architect Saarinen
73 "Peter ——," early TV detective series
74 It can be grand or upright
76 Have feet pointed inward
77 Mexican Mrs.
78 POPULAR LYRE
83 Maiden-named
84 Founder of Time
85 See 96-Down
86 Tip-top
88 Isolde's love
91 Keats's ceramic
92 Org. advocating motorist sobriety
96 CHEAP
97 BINGE BLURS EGO
102 Make a double knot
103 Having more chutzpah
104 Evenly surfaced
105 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
106 Hit man
107 Speechify

DOWN

1 Chop clumsily
2 A Ladd or a King
3 Provoke yawns
4 Kind of tube or sanctum
5 Afternoon social
6 Pairs
7 Seagull's acquaintance
8 Baby food
9 "Just —— suspected!"
10 Watermelon waste
11 Opposite of let out
12 Tussaud's title
13 Amphitheater
14 Located at the rear
15 In its present condition
16 NASA moon vehicle
18 Down from a duck
21 Tribal no-no
26 Periodical, informally
28 Kimono accessory
29 Brawny
30 Luau food
31 Phoner's code
33 Balm
34 Oklahoma Indian
35 INANE WARS
37 Nickname for Grandma
38 One of the Baldwins
39 ENGINE REP
40 Korbut of gymnastics
41 School on the Thames
43 Ends a fishing maneuver
45 Astronomy great
47 Oliver's comedy sidekick
48 Has come up for payment
50 Pine-tree exudate
51 Oompah instrument
53 She played Gilda
54 Palme ——, Cannes film prize
56 Roll's go-with
59 Bailey's circus partner
61 Smokers' buys, for short
62 Clock hand
63 Barcelona snack
65 Saint-Laurent's mentor
66 Forward, a lake; backward, a country
67 Finished
70 Knightly joust
75 Playmate for Tarzan
76 Knockout count
78 Bum's and gold
79 Libra-Scorpio mo.
80 Hankers
81 Potato peeler
82 Protracted
84 Not illegal
87 Smoldering bit
88 —— off (started golfing)
89 Going price
90 Caroler's word
91 Junkie
93 Edison's middle name
94 Vocal for two
95 Remove, in proofreading
96 For the time being, with 85-Across
98 Bikini half
99 Clinging vine
100 Never, in Nuremberg
101 Mop & —— (floor-wax brand)

The 'Guardian' Crossword Set by Araucaria



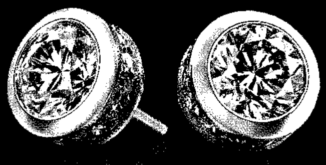
ACROSS

1 I agree, within limit, with retraction of earlier work. (8)
5 Artist's work, laced as 3 is minded. (6)
9 I produce a sweetener in lumps (Agra version). (5,4)
11 Araucaria's time for representation. (5)
12 Resilient piece to please the kids. (6,6)
15 Boat once current across the water. (4)
16 Vexed by burglary? (10)
18 Removed on stretcher, having performed successfully? (7,3)
19 Vulgar name for endless burden. (3-1)
21 Religious community on holy island left according to custom. (12)
24 A sceptic shortly on holy mountain. (5)
25 Very 21 leather next spring. (9)
26 Having been made shipshape, it turned round and departed. (6)
27 Was the hidden cause of support for carpeting. (8)

DOWN

1 Press forward, or back up and shut up. (4)
2 See attempt at trademark. (4)
3 Successor to 5 and . . . and bow? (6)
4 D-drops of water meeting old craving for waterway. (8,5)
6 I leave the unimportant and I've a shell in three parts. (8)
7 Paint a toad, which is not exactly fitting. (10)
8 Make an alteration in some clothes? Terrific! (10)
10 Person elected at springtime floor show on river. (5,2,6)
13 Room for skill with shuttle, perhaps. (10)
14 3 or 25 in 4? (10)
17 Movie lover in ecstasy restrained by class. (8)
20 Doctor in storm to take a 15. (6)
22 Influence rather than 1-Down. (4)
23 Little boy doing the rounds? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLES APPEAR ON PAGE 171.



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